

# Land Use and Transportation Committee meeting April 11, 2022

On behalf of the San Francisco Human Rights Commission



# Data Show Disproportionate Needs

Available demographic information shows that, relative to the overall population, BIPOC San Franciscans are far more likely to experience homelessness and to require housing assistance – especially families.

## ❑ 2020 Census Data for San Francisco

Black population: 5.6%

Native population: 0.7%

## ❑ 2019 San Francisco Homeless Point-in-Time Count & Survey

Overall homeless population:

37% Black

5% Native

22% Multi-racial

Families with children experiencing homelessness:

28% Black

7% Native

30% Multi-racial

## ❑ HUD Resident Characteristics Report for San Francisco as of 3/31/2022

46% of households receiving federal housing identified as Black

37% Female Headed Household with Children

# SF Laws re: Pregnancy in Housing

Local laws in San Francisco currently provide some anti-discrimination protections in housing for pregnant people, but none that explicitly include **pregnancy** as a protected characteristic.

## ❑ **Police Code Article 1.2**

- Covers some forms of discrimination based on ‘potential tenancy of a minor child’, but
- ‘Refusal to rent’ is only prohibited if ‘such person has a minor child or children’

## ❑ **Police Code Article 33, Section 3304**

- Includes protections for “race, color, ancestry, national origin, place of birth, sex, age, religion, creed, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity, source of income, weight, or height”

## ❑ **Administrative Code Chapter 12C**

- Includes protections for “race, color, creed, religion, national origin, ancestry, age, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, domestic partner status, marital status, disability, AIDS/HIV status, weight, height”

# Source of Income Discrimination

## What is Source of Income Discrimination?

- All legal sources of income are protected by local & state law
- Most complaints involve federal subsidy vouchers
- “We don’t take Section 8”

## Why is Source of Income Discrimination Important?

- Obstacles to obtain vouchers (waitlist is lengthy and closed)
- Limited time to use vouchers before they expire
- Effect of discrimination is demoralizing
- Voucher holders are disproportionately likely to be BIPOC

## HRC Source of Income Complaints since 2018

The vast majority of SOI complaints were filed by black women with children. Over 30 of these complaints resulted in either a settlement with monetary compensation, or a finding in favor of the Complainant.

# Source of Income Discrimination

People Who Experience Housing Discrimination May Not Complain

- May not be aware of legal protections
- May feel a need to prioritize their housing search

HRC conducts **Outreach & Engagement** to raise awareness about Source of Income discrimination.

HRC has also conducted **Fair Housing Testing** to assess the frequency of Source of Income discrimination in our housing market. Testing results show that overt discrimination is just the 'tip of the iceberg' – people with subsidy vouchers often experience less obvious discrimination.

# Resources

Anyone who experiences discrimination in any housing-related transaction or rental due to Pregnancy, Source of Income, or any other protected factors may contact:

## SF Human Rights Commission

Phone: 415-252-2500

Email: [hrc.info@sfgov.org](mailto:hrc.info@sfgov.org)

Office: 25 Van Ness Ave, 8<sup>th</sup> Floor

Web: [www.sf-hrc.org](http://www.sf-hrc.org)

## Bar Association of San Francisco - Lawyer Referral & Information Service

Phone: 415-989-1616

Web: [www.sfbar.org/Iris](http://www.sfbar.org/Iris)

## California Department of Fair Employment & Housing (DFEH)

Phone: 800-884-1684

Web: [www.dfeh.ca.gov](http://www.dfeh.ca.gov)