

From: [Calvin Quick \(SFYC\)](#)
To: [Wong, Linda \(BOS\)](#); [Fewer, Sandra \(BOS\)](#); [Walton, Shamann \(BOS\)](#); [Mandelman, Rafael \(BOS\)](#); [Haney, Matt \(BOS\)](#)
Cc: [Mcdonald, Courtney \(BOS\)](#); jodav1026@gmail.com; [FewerStaff \(BOS\)](#); [Waltonstaff \(BOS\)](#); [MandelmanStaff, \[BOS\]](#)
Subject: Letter of Support on File No. 201185
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Attachments: [2020.12.07 30RightNow Individual Letter of Support.pdf](#)

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Good afternoon Ms Wong and members of the Budget and Finance Committee,

Please find attached my individual letter of support on File No. 201185 [Administrative Code - Permanent Supportive Housing - Rent Contribution Standard] by Supervisor Haney. The Youth Commission is also supporting this legislation (our report can be found [here](#)).

Best,

-Calvin

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December 7, 2020

San Francisco Board of Supervisors
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place
City Hall, Room 244
San Francisco, Ca. 94102-4689

RE: Support for File No. 201185 and 30 Right Now Campaign for a 30% Uniform Rent Contribution Standard in Permanent Supportive Housing

Dear Chair Fewer and Members of the Budget and Finance Committee,

I strongly urge you to pass Supervisor Haney's legislation to establish a uniform 30% maximum rent standard for tenants in the City's permanent supportive housing (PSH), as contained in [File No. 201185](#). On November 16, 2020, the Youth Commission voted to support this legislation with the recommendation that the Department of Homelessness and Supportive Housing (HSH) collect more data on how many Transitional Aged Youth (TAY) tenants of PSH are currently paying more than 30% in rent. The Youth Commission's [report](#) to the Board can be found in the legislative file.

Since the 1980s, the maximum rent tenants of federal public housing are required to pay is 30% of their income. Since 1937, 30% of household income has been the federal standard beyond which tenants are rent burdened. And yet several thousand of the City's supportive housing tenants, including families, pay well over that proportion of their income in rent—an extortionary and cruel situation foisted upon those who the City is supposed to be helping, which is most common in (but not exclusive to) older buildings. The whole point of supportive housing is to be supportive of the tenants who live in it, but the efficacy of services is undermined when tenants are rent burdened.

For over a year now, the 30 Right Now Campaign has been advocating for an end to this situation by imposing a requirement that PSH providers cannot charge more than 30% of adjusted household income in rent to their tenants. While there is effectively *no* data on how many TAY are living in rent burdened PSH (either TAY-specific PSH or the general adult stock), it is unconscionable that our youth and families, and all people living in PSH, are being required to spend sometimes the majority of their paycheck on rent while living in City housing.

Over the past two and a half years serving as the District 5 representative on the Youth Commission, I have worked with HSH, service providers like Larkin Street Youth Services, and TAY who are currently, or have previously, experienced homelessness and/or lived in supportive housing. Our current system is not working for youth. While the City has failed to deliver on its promise to operate at least 400 units of PSH for TAY specifically (whose tenants, anecdotally, are less often rent burdened since most of the TAY-specific PSH stock is newer), we are failing those who rely on the adult system by leaving intact a longstanding pattern of rent burdening those who we should be helping.

A budget allocation has already been made to start reducing burdened rents; tenant organizers, disability rights advocates, PSH providers, and advisory bodies like the Single Room Occupancy Taskforce and the Youth Commission are demanding an end to this indignity, and I hope that the committee takes action to fully fund this legislation in the next budget cycle.

For all these reasons, I support this legislation, and urge you to pass it out of committee with positive recommendation.

Sincerely,

Calvin Quick

Youth Commissioner, District 5