# Tenderloin Community Council: Strategic Approach to Addressing Harms Related to Open Air Drug Market

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FEBRUARY 9, 2021

# Purpose:

 Provide a framework for an actionable plan for the shortterm & long-term

# TL Community Council

- Formed in Spring 2019
- In-person meetings 20-25 people
- TL residents, business owners, non-profit
- Each mtg 30% to 60% POC
- Long term residents--many in the TL for 10+ years.

## TL Community Council Purpose

- Honest talk among the multiple communities of the TL
- Identify harms related to openair drug sales and use
- Review, evaluate, and advocate for effective ways to address those harms

# TL Community Council

- Participated in City Hearings April 2019
- Negotiated for broader representation on this Task Force
- Negotiated framing the issue as addressing harms and not just sales

## URGENCY TODAY

- INCREASES IN VIOLENCE
- INCREASES IN OVERDOSES
- OVID HAS CHANGED WHO IS ON THE STREETS AND FOR WHAT PURPOSE
- LOSS OF LIFE, LOSS OF BUSINESS, LOSS OF STABILITY

# Assumptions

- The drug market has existed for decades and impact is getting worse
- The TL is a traumatized community
- These conditions didn't occur overnight, are deeply entrenched, & require a strategic approach/plan

# Further Assumptions

- Law enforcement & treatment are equally important
- Participants in the market must be engaged
- Success should be measured objectively and subjectively
- This problem can't be dealt with in isolation
- Chronic, wide-spread poverty is a driver

#### HARMS & CONCERNS RELATED TO OPEN AIR DRUG MARKET

#### INTERFERENCE WITH DAILY LIFE

FOR MEMBERS OF THE COMMUNITY INCLUDING YOUTH, BUSINESSES, FAMILIES,
PEOPLE IN RECOVERY
ERRODED COMMUNITY IMAGE

**VIOLENCE** 

IMPLIED OR THREATENED ACTUAL

PROPERTY LOSS
INCLUDING THEFT AND
GRAFFITTI

OPEN AIR
DRUG MARKET

DETERIORATING PUBLIC HEALTH

VISIBLE: OVERDOSES, VISIBLE WOUNDS
INVISIBLE: HEP C, etc.

## UPREDICTABLE BEHAVIORS

RELATED TO USING & BEING HIGH

RELATED TO WITHDRAWL

MENTAL HEALTH
ISSUES

#### HARMS & CONCERNS RELATED HIGH RATES OF POVERTY

#### INTERFERENCE WITH DAILY LIFE

FOR MEMBERS OF THE COMMUNITY INCLUDING LACK OF ADEQUATE RESOURCES & OPPORTUNITY, CONGESTED SIDEWALKS, INSTABILTY, LACK OF **ECONOMIC** 

#### **VIOLENCE**

**IMPLIED OR THREATENED ACTUAL** SEXUAL VIOLENCE. **PARTNER VIOLENCE** 

**PROPERTY LOSS INCLUDING** THEFT AND GRAFFITTI

**POVERTY HOMELESSNESS** 

## **UNPREDICTABLE BEHAVIORS**

**RELATED TO** TRAUMA

**RELATED TO** UNTREATED MENTAL HEALTH **CONCERNS** 

## **DETERIORATING PUBLIC HEALTH**

VISIBLE: OBESITY OR MALNURISHMENT, **MOBILITY ISSUES** 

**INVISIBLE: SHORTENED LIFE EXPECTANCY** 

## Race and Racism

- Chronic under investment and over enforcement have created on-going, chaotic conditions in the Tenderloin. These conditions are, in large part, the result of historical racism and on-going structural racism. All Tenderloin residents feel the impact of under-resourcing, but Black and Latinx people are most deeply impacted by generational poverty and disproportionate arrest and incarceration.
- Any initiative to address the open-air drug market will be much more effective if it is accompanied by a public process that accounts for the impact of racism on access to housing, employment, healthcare, family stability, and human dignity.
   Such a process must include and be driven by the people who have been most harmed by historical racism.
- If we want a process of accountability and repair to be effective in changing conditions in the neighborhood, it will have to include a commitment to economic repair and investment for addressing the historical harms of racism. Without economic investment in the people who are most engaged/impacted by the drug market, reduction or elimination of the open-air market will remain very difficult.

## Recommendation:

- A plan that is
- Actionable & Effective
- Multifaceted
- Builds on existing resources
- Accountable to diverse communities within the TL

## Harm Reduction

When it's not possible to eliminate harmful behavior, strategies for reducing harm set the stage for meaningful change

## Restorative Justice

Many harms caused by the drug market aren't adequately addressed by the court system.

Unaddressed harms lead to cycles of violence and drug use

## Trauma Informed Systems

Trauma changes behavior
Interventions built on trauma
informed systems
maximize success

# Action Plan & Resources

Leading to short-term and long-term improvements

## Anti-violence Programing

Cycles of violence fuel the drug market.
Intervening before violence occurs & after it occurs is necessary

## Police Engagement

Policing for community stability first and drug market disruption second:

- 1. Predictable police presence,
- 2. Security from violence,
- 3. Community & service collaboration.

# Next Steps Coordinating Existing Resources



Coordinate existing community based services/resources & law Enforcement

Create strategy & coordinating body

- Community stakeholders (residents, business, etc.)
- Community based orgs
- City agencies (enforcement, health, etc.)

Identify short-term, high priority goals

- By location
- For maximum improvement

- Improve communication & coordination with enforcement.
- Map & align existing harm reduction, outreach, safety, cleaning services.
- View efforts as neighborhood wide & build on local resources.

Build on COVID related initiatives to maximize short-term outcomes

- Safe Streets
- TL Plan
- HSOC & HOT resources

# Next Steps What Does Short-term action look like?

#### Coordinated Efforts

- Support existing calming activities (police, HSOC, HOT, etc.)
- Prepare other resources for immediate activation to maintain calm through presence and services to follow on calming activities
- Monitor the area for upticks in activity
- Respond to upticks with appropriate resources (enforcement, HSOC, etc.)

### Supporting Existing Successes

- At safe sleeping sites and existing encampments focus efforts on maintaining and enhancing safety and calm
- Use outreach teams with credibility to monitor and address problems
- Enhance harm reduction, street medicine and other services

# Next Steps Build Community Based/Supported Long-term Plan

### SHORT TERM 6 TO 12 MONTHS

Monitor & support coordinated existing initiatives

Use short-term efforts to build strategies to develop long term goals and plans

Strategy & Coordinating Body

- Define 3 to 5 year goals
- Identify & advocate for resources

Produce strategic plan incorporating Task Force priorities & strategies

- Coordinate with Supervisor's office on funding and resource strategies
- Coordinate non-profit, City (DPH, HSH, etc.), and enforcement agencies/resources
- Design evaluation and accountability