

What Else Can We Do to Address the Current Drug Market?

- If arrest and incarceration have not proven effective in reducing or eliminating open-air drug markets in the Tenderloin, what other choices do we have?
- Some people say we have to choose between domination by drug dealers or constant police occupation, what other choices do we have?
- Beyond law enforcement and drug treatment, what tools do we have to address the amount of drug dealing we have in the Tenderloin?

What Harms Related to Street Drug Dealing Need to be Addressed?

- Violence and the threat of violence
- Drug overdose
- Disturbing behavior—open air drug use and chaotic behavior
- Interference with daily life for other members of the community including (but not limited to) families, businesses, people in recovery

Assumptions

- The open-air drug market has existed for decades and is increasingly problematic
- The Tenderloin exhibits symptoms of community trauma (dysfunctional social relationships, decayed physical environment, lack of economic investment), and poverty plays a significant role
- The conditions supporting the open-air drug market didn't arise overnight, have become deeply entrenched over time, and will require a strategic, long-term plan to be effectively changed
- While law enforcement and treatment both have an important role to play, they must be coordinated with other services
- Participants in the market (dealers and users) must be engaged as well
- Success should be measured by perceptions of reduced harm **and** objective measures of reduced harm (i.e., reduced overdose, reduced reports of violence, etc.)

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. These conditions also fuel the drug market in its current configuration.
- 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.

A Framework for Addressing Disruptive Street Level Drug Dealing

This framework is one approach to reducing the impact of the open-air drug market. It is not intended to be *the only* framework, but to help us all envision a broader, more effective approach.

	Trauma Informed Methods	Harm Reduction Practices	Restorative Justice Process	Anti-violence Programing	Law Enforcement Collaboration
Why?	The TL is a traumatized community exhibiting social dysfunction, decaying physical environment, lack of economic investment & opportunity.	The drug market has proven to be barely manageable and nearly impossible to eradicate with enforcement alone. HR provides tools to manage the harms while moving to reduce or eliminate the market.	Many of the harms caused by the drug market aren't adequately addressed by the court system. These unaddressed harms lead to cycles of frustration, violence, and under investment in the neighborhood.	Violence is a primary harm. It continues cycles of trauma, perpetuates self-medication via drug use, etc. Beyond law enforcement anti-violence programing interrupts cycles of violence.	Law enforcement has a critical role to play. That role should be defined by creating, rather than disrupting, community stability and safety. It should be integrated with other approaches and focus on the fundamental harms (e.g. violence) of the market.
What?	The primary treatment for trauma (individual or community) is stability, predictability, and safety. Community orgs and City services need training to ensure that all programs support community resilience, predictability, and stability as conditions for improving safety.	HR recognizes the risks and harms related to drug use. It provides tools for addressing risks/harms directly. Rather than moving quickly to abstinence or elimination, HR provides tools for reducing risks and harms thereby increasing the likelihood that gains in reducing harms will be long-term and sustainable. HR includes access to treatment and support for abstinence.	RJ provides resources for addressing the real impact of harm done. It creates accountability within the community through acknowledging harms, restoring what's lost (if possible), and reducing the likelihood that the harm will happen again. RJ provides processes to identify which cases to address in court or in the community.	Anti-violence programing empowers community leaders to intervene in cycles of violence. This may include non-police presence (e.g. Urban Alchemy, CARE Ambassadors), intervention teams who engage with those at highest risk of perpetrating violence, and rapid trauma response to victims of violence.	Traditionally, the war on drugs focused on disrupting the market. Disruption is a primary cause of community trauma. Law enforcement that focuses on creating stability and predictability supports recovery from community trauma. This approach focuses on 1) addressing violence of all kinds including sexual violence, and 2) consistent enforcement to reduce the density of dealing, but not eliminate it.