

GRAY PANTHERS OF SAN FRANCISCO



SF Gray Panthers Meeting

**We Won! No New SF Jail!
Now We Need to Win Our
Mental Health, Housing,
and Jobs!**

Speaker: Roma Guy
Health Educator, Community Leader

Tues, Jan 19, 1 PM
Unitarian Center 1187 Franklin

Free, Public Invited, Wheelchairs OK

See page 3 of Newsletter.

Holiday Party Pics Inside

GRAY PANTHERS COMMITTEE MEETINGS & EVENTS

Board Meeting, Wed, Jan 6, 1 PM
Main Library, Stong Rm, 1st Floor
Members welcome.

SF Police Comm, Wed Jan 6, 5:30PM
City Hall, Rm 400. First scheduled meet.
They will likely push for tasers for police, which we oppose. See page 5.

Newsletter Comm, Tues, Jan 12, 2 PM
Celtic Café, 142 McAllister
Between Hyde & Leavenworth
Please call 415-215-7575 to confirm.

Book Club, Mon, Jan 25, 11:30 AM
Celtic Café, 142 McAllister
between Hyde & Leavenworth
Please call 415-931-1126 to confirm.

Planning Commission Hearing on Density Bonus Plan, Thurs, Jan 28, 12 Noon,
City Hall, Rm 400. It could lead to huge displacement. See page 4 for more.

Gray Panthers Holiday Party!



Michael and Nan



David and Barbara Lee



Donald



Kay Walker



.The Gang



Jim, Nan, Sonia, Betty, Denise
and Barbara Blong



Alexandra, Joileen, and Kaye
Griffin



Frances and Enrique

January 19 Meeting:

We Won! No New Jail For SF!

Now It's Healthcare, Housing, & Jobs!

Speaker: Roma Guy

On Dec 15, thanks to a tremendous 2-year fight by a great coalition of mass incarceration opponents,



advocates for mental health and housing for all, LGBT groups, groups fighting killings by police, some unions, and some prisoner groups, the SF Supervisors unanimously voted against spending hundreds of millions to build a new jail and for providing ser-

vices instead. The Supes postponed action on accepting an \$80 million jail construction grant from the State, hoping (probably futilely) that the State will allow SF to use the money for services. The Supes did vote to buy the land originally intended for the new jail; we need assurance it cannot be used for any jail construction.

Now the fight enters a new phase: making sure that the right services for mental health, housing, jobs, and our other needs are provided. In rejecting the jail, the Board voted to send the funding ordinances for the jail back to its Committees to determine how the money could be used for alternatives to imprisonment, presumably directed by the Public Health and Sheriff's Departments.

We want to expand that input to include homeless advocates, other mental health providers, and returnees from prison and jail. We need to stop the endless revolving door between homelessness and jail. We need a greater variety of mental illness and substance abuse treatments; one size does not fit all. We need inpatient treatment for the severely mentally ill that lasts beyond Medi-Cal's treatment limits. We also need real community input for bail reform, alternative court systems, and alternatives to incarceration for those convicted. Our coalition has experts and resources who have been in these fields for years, and we plan to be active in these discussions.

Most of this involves long-term planning, but some of these decisions may be made quickly, so please stay tuned and come when needed.

Gray Panther writes to Ed Lee:

Housing, Not Jails!

I have been a long time resident (over 50 years) of San Francisco -- in almost every district -- and I strongly urge you to vote against a new jail in S.F. Don't you think you should be devoting your full attention to the horrific housing crisis in SF? We need affordable housing for the majority of San Franciscans!!!

I'm 72, was an Ellis Act Eviction victim in 2006 (evicted from my home of 21 years) -- a most devastating experience, got cancer in the middle of the move, and currently I'm now being pushed out with the astronomical market rate increases and must put up with having to take in stranger housemates in my home, which is very difficult at my age.

We don't need more jails -- we need decent, safe, affordable homes & jobs for people! You complain about the homeless incessantly, while you hypocritically continue to allow the Draconian Ellis Act law to throw ever more people out on the street, not to mention the landlords & developers, who are further creating homeless with these "market rate increases," which normal people who provide you with all the services needed, cannot afford.

This is not only shameful, but immoral! If you studied history, you would know that when you push decent people down long enough & hard enough, they start to fight back. Common decency should make one recoil at the horror of witnessing so many homeless, ill, & despairing people on the streets, yet "we" walk on by & pretend to ignore them. Do you go to church, do you claim to be Christians? If you do, then you don't ignore such a travesty!

Shame on you while you live in your warm, comfortable homes!

Marti Sousanis



SF Housing Law Changes: “Density Bonus” Means Displacement

**Come to the Planning Commission
Say NO! to the Density Bonus Measure
Thursday, January 28, 12 Noon
City Hall, Room 400
(See article below)**

Tim Redmond’s 48 Hills reports that under the guise of creating more affordable housing, the Mayor’s Office is proposing an ‘Affordable Housing Density Bonus Plan’ that could lead to the greatest wave of displacement since the Redevelopment era of the 1950s.

In essence, the idea is to allow developers to demolish buildings and add up to two stories above current zoning if 30% of the units are “affordable.” “Affordable” can include so-called “middle income” housing. Replacement for demolished affordable units in the original building can count toward the 30%.

More than 30,000 units of housing over much of the eastern side of the city and large swaths along transit corridors on the west side, including tens of thousands of units of rent-controlled housing, and all of the corner stores, restaurants, and community-serving small businesses located on the first floors below them – are potentially targets for demolition. The only practical way to add stories or enlarge buildings is to tear down existing buildings.

Demolished rent-controlled units would be replaced by Below Market Rate units where income-qualified would pay 30% of their income. So, for example, if rent-controlled units occupied by middle-class families are replaced with means-tested Below Market Rate units, those families might not qualify to move back into their own homes. Read the whole article: <http://tinyurl.com/jsgsfsv>

The ‘Affordable Housing Density Bonus Plan’ is currently a work in progress, and various amendments are being considered. Nevertheless, we need to be extremely vigilant on this proposal. Please come to the January 28 Planning Commission meeting at noon in City Hall, Room 400.

Expand Rent Control to New Buildings?

Rent Control in California is severely limited by the 1995 Costa-Hawkins Law that, among other nasty things, prohibits rent control in buildings built after 1979. San Francisco has huge incentive to tear down buildings for luxury housing, so the loss of rent-controlled housing is severe.

Newly re-elected Supervisor Aaron Peskin is floating a plan by which developers would commit to rent control in their new buildings in return for the City’s relaxation of its size or height limits in zoning laws.

Peskin estimates as many as 30,000 new units could become rent controlled this way, though these units would start out with today’s high market-rate rents, and be brought up to even higher market-rate rents when they are vacated in the future. (Costa-Hawkins also outlaws “vacancy control,” so rent-controlled rents can return to market rates when units become vacant, increasing the owner’s incentive to evict.) Stay tuned for further information as it develops.

People Demand Justice!



Mario Woods surrounded by police with drawn guns, moments before being killed.



Sheriffs protect Police Commission from outraged people demanding justice and an end to police killings.

Mario Woods

Mario Woods was surrounded by at least 10 SF police who fired at least 20 bullets into him, for failing to drop a kitchen knife. Woods had been knocked to his knees by earlier beanbag shots and pepper-sprayed, and was walking away from police when one officer stepped in front of him. Bang! Bang!

Contrary to Police Chief Greg Suhr's lie that police were threatened, a KQED video shows Wood's hands by his side when police opened fire, and many shots were fired after Woods was on the ground. It was a brutal murder in a situation that could have been resolved with nobody being hurt. White shooters, even those who kill cops, are taken into custody without a scratch.

Greg Suhr and the media have tried to excuse the cops' actions by implying that Woods didn't deserve to live. He had been put on the notorious gang injunction list, a lifetime designation for associating with gang members, and served 7 years. People who knew him said he was not a gang member. He is alleged to have stabbed someone shortly before being killed, but several hours of internet searching have failed to turn up anything beyond the police Department's original allegation. No name of the victim or any other follow up. The family's lawyer doubts the stabbing occurred.

Cedric Smith, a 47-year-old real estate entrepreneur who lives near where the shooting took place, said that he saw Woods around the neighborhood frequently and that the type of threatening behavior described by police did not fit his personality. "They had six officers against this one little guy," he said. "They could have used batons. They could have backed off. They didn't need to shoot him." His mother said he had mental problems and depression after release from jail, but he was dealing with them. He had just been hired by UPS and had picked up his uniform the day he was killed.

Since 2005, 24 people have been killed by SFPD officers during the process of arrest, including six in 2015. No police have ever paid for their crimes. This terror is directly aimed at the Black and Latin community, but ultimately at the working class of all so-called races. But people will rise up. We always do, eventually.

Say NO! to Tasers

Mayor Ed Lee and Police Chief Greg Suhr are taking advantage of the SF Police Department's execution-style murder of Mario Woods to push for arming SF police with tasers (electric stun guns), claiming that if the police had tasers, it would not have been "necessary" to kill Mario.

Outrageous and wrong. Police procedure is to use guns when endangered, so the same racist routine of police killing people of color they say are endangering them will continue, whether cops have tasers or not. A UCSF study showed fatal police shootings *increase* after police have tasers. Instead, tasers will give police another weapon to terrorize subjects. 80% of US taser use is against unarmed victims. And police use tasers disproportionately against Blacks, Latins, people with disabilities, and the mentally ill. In San Diego Blacks and Latins are twice as likely to be tased as whites

Tasers are not non-lethal. Between 2001-2014, over 600 have been killed by tasers in the US. When police tase someone, they have no way of knowing if the person is vulnerable to death or permanent bodily or psychology injury from tasing.

Prosecutors and courts will not restrain police taser abuse any more than they restrain police gun use. A seven-month pregnant black woman in Seattle was pulled over for allegedly driving 32 in a 20 mph zone. When she refused to sign the ticket, thinking it admitted guilt, and did not get out of the car, she was tased three times. A court ruled police acted reasonably.

**Please Come to Police Commission Meeting
Wed, Jan 6, 5:30 PM, City Hall, Rm 400
They'll probably introduce tasers.**



Gray Panther testifies against tasers. December 2012

Gray Panthers of SF

2940 16th Street, Room 200 – 4
San Francisco, CA 94103
415-552-8800
<http://graypantherssf.igc.org/>
graypanther-sf@sonic.net

Nonprofit Org.

U.S. Postage

PAID

San Francisco, CA

Permit No. 12977

ADDRESS SERVICE
REQUESTED

We believe ALL people are
entitled to certain fundamental
rights:

meaningful employment
economic security
decent and affordable housing
quality health care
a life of dignity from birth to
death free from fear and abuse
a world in peace



Age and Youth in Action

Call the office for membership information.

Printed In House January 2016

Actions and Events

(Complete on-line Calendar at <http://tinyurl.com/2gy6enb>)

Wed, Jan 6, Police Commission, Police Tasers likely to be introduced: 5:30 PM, City Hall, Rm 400. Bad idea! See Page 5.

Fri, Jan 8, SF Living Wage Coalition Silent Art Auction: 6PM, 2940 16th St.

Wed, Jan 13, SDA Health Action Team Meeting: 11 AM, 1010 Mission.

Thurs, Jan 14, Senior & Disability Action Meeting: 10AM-12 Noon. 1187 Franklin.

Thurs, Jan 14, CARA SF CAT Meeting: 1-3 PM, ILWU office, 1188 Franklin at Geary, 4th Fl.

Fri, Jan 15, Sensible Cinema, *MLK*, in-depth documentary: 6:30 PM, 1187 Franklin.

Tues, Jan 19, SF Gray Panther General Meeting: See first page.

Wed, Jan 20, Senior & Disability Action Housing Collaborative: 1-3 PM, 1360 Mission, 4th Fl.

Wed, Jan 20, SF Living Wage Coalition: 6-8 PM, Redstone Bldg, 2940 16th St, 3rd Fl.

Thurs, Jan 21, Modern Times, Diana Block, Roxanne Dunbar Ortiz: 7 PM.

Sat, Jan 23, OWL-SF Planning Meeting for 2016: 10 AM, 555 Ellis (bet Hyde, Leavenworth).

Sat, Jan 23, Counter-Protest to Anti-Abortion Walk for Life: 12:30 PM, Powell & Market.

Sun, Jan 24, Panel Discussion: Internet Rights, Open Access: 1 PM, Main Library, Latino Rm.

Thurs, Jan 28, Planning Comm Meeting on Density Bonus: 12 Noon, City Hall, Rm 400. Could lead to huge displacement. See page 4.