Many San Francisco residents are facing hard times—particularly in communities of color. Many people in this city are struggling to find meaningful work, affordable housing, and access to good education and sustainable healthcare. It is concerning that more and more families are finding it harder and harder to make ends meet, some decision-makers are prioritizing spending on more jails, more police, more condos and luxury apartments, more Google buses, and more golf courses. We want, deserve, and demand to live in a city that prioritizes the health, wellbeing, and cultural and political life of all of San Francisco’s residents.

WHAT WE WANT, WHAT We NEED

1. Community-based solutions and alternatives to incarceration. Countless research, from university-based studies to reports from street-level service providers, find time and time again that approaches that use community-based solutions to harm and violence, have exponentially better outcomes. Outcomes that keep families intact, assist loved ones to overcome the hardships of addiction, reduce the likelihood of repeated harm, increase community stability—rather than locking people up. San Francisco has experienced a downward trend in jail population for several years now. If we restored funding to pretrial diversion programs we could divert enough prisoners to close CJ4 immediately. AB 109 funds could be utilized to implement community based programming, as Alameda County has done through the department of public health, Innovations In Reentry initiative. We could expand restorative justice practices many community groups are already practicing throughout the San Francisco bay area. Many solutions already are in practice, and should be prioritized over incarceration, which we know has failed not only our community, but our nation.

2. Increased funding for residential treatment programs & outpatient mental health & substance abuse treatment services. Prioritizing mental health and treatment should be a top priority for any county that values community stability, health, and wellbeing. Funding treatment programs not only prevents people from doing time to begin with, but also helps those coming home transition more successfully back in to the community.
3. HEALTH CARE FOR ALL SAN FRANCISCANS. Regular and preventive care for people of all ages and backgrounds has been proven to have a positive effect on all aspects of community stability and sustainability.

People coming home from jail and prison don’t have health insurance, let alone adequate health care. Increase funding for programs such as Transitions Clinic that serve people coming home from prison. Make sure everyone coming out of jail and prison, regardless of their migrant status, know they can apply for Healthy San Francisco health insurance and get linked to medical care.

4. STOP ALL DEPORTATIONS. Tearing apart families, depriving them of their means of survival, and saddling them with legal debt in their efforts to save their family is destructive and creates massive insecurity, trauma and harm. This is the opposite of public safety. Protect all San Francisco families and workers!

5. FULLY FUNDED EDUCATION INCLUDING CITY COLLEGE. Accessible and affordable higher education increases opportunities for our residents while contributing to a more cohesive and vibrant community. Fully prepare all San Francisco youth for a healthy future, and keep programs that serve formally incarcerated San Franciscans available and expand them to meet the needs of all people coming home from jail and prison.

6. JOB TRAINING PROGRAMS & LIVING WAGE JOBS FOR ALL SAN FRANCISCO WORKERS, INCLUDING UNDOCUMENTED WORKERS. Access to meaningful work and job training, education and healthcare, should be a core value and top funding priority for any city or county that values community stability, health, and wellbeing.

People with records need vocational programs that address the specific obstacles they face in finding employment. San Francisco is one of the first cities to pass Ban the Box legislation, but we must do more to change attitudes of discrimination in the hiring of people with records.
7. MORE FUNDING FOR AFFORDABLE HOUSING AND SUPPORTIVE HOUSING DEVELOPMENTS, & AN END TO EVICTIONS. A stable community is built on an absolute right to affordable and dignified housing for all residents. In most countries in the world, this is recognized as a fundamental Human Right. By taking a stand against evictions and the violence of gentrification, this county will show that it prioritizes residents’ needs over corporate development and profit.

We need affordable safe housing for all San Franciscans, including supported, re-entry housing and rental subsidies to meet the needs of all people coming home from jail and prison. We must put an end to practices of discrimination against people with criminal convictions seeking housing.

8. FREE AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAMMING FOR EVERY CHILD & YOUTH. A vibrant educational and cultural life should extend from the classroom into the community, providing our youth with empowering and safe places to grow; and develop into strong community members and leaders. To achieve these goals programs must be culturally affirming, and address the need for multilingual programming.

After school programing invests much needed resources in to the communities and the children that are most underserved, and the most vulnerable to police and other forms of violence.

9. EXPAND COMMUNITY PARKS AND GARDENS FOR ALL SAN FRANCISCANS. Beyond the basic needs every person has an irrefutable right to, residents also deserve to have beautiful and life-affirming open space in their communities—free and accessible to all.

Parks, gardens and plazas are spaces for healthy social interaction and community restoration. Through education for youth and adults alike, these spaces facilitate healing and community cooperation for people impacted by harm.