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LURIE ANNOUNCES EMERGENCY SHELTER PLAN TO END UNSHELTERED HOMELESSNESS IN SIX MONTHS

1,500 Emergency Shelter Beds Would Be Created in Six Months & 2,500 Interim Housing Units in Two Years Through Innovative Public-Private Partnership



SAN FRANCISCO— Today, Daniel Lurie announced his comprehensive & sustainable approach to urgently address San Francisco's unsheltered homelessness crisis to be called [“Home Run”](#). The strategy, backed by leading experts, would erect 1,500 emergency shelter beds in his first six months as mayor and create 2,500 interim—or “bridge”—housing units during his first two years as mayor. Lurie announced his plan at 33 Gough Street, [a tiny home village](#) for the unhoused that has become a model for a cost-effective, fast, and humane solution to getting people off the streets.

“When it comes to homelessness, San Francisco’s next mayor has to run, not walk,” said Daniel Lurie, a longtime non-profit executive, father of two, and lifelong Democrat. “No matter the outcome of the Supreme Court’s decision, the injunction does not stop the mayor from closing encampments—lack of action does. We’re experiencing a crisis on par with a natural disaster, but with new leadership, I am confident we can end unsheltered homelessness within six months. My plan treats

our shelter and homelessness crisis like the emergency it is, and together we will end unsheltered homelessness within the city limits of San Francisco.”

Currently, San Francisco is facing a massive shortage of shelter beds with only one bed for every three people who need one. For more than a decade, San Francisco’s homelessness response has been too focused on one solution: building Permanent Supportive Housing (“PSH”). In fact, San Francisco has the second-highest ratio of PSH beds per capita of any city in the nation, and by far the highest ratio in the Bay Area. The problem is that PSH is costing our city an exorbitant \$1 million or more per unit, and it takes many years to permit and build. The result is that for every one person who finally clears the waiting list and moves into permanent housing, an additional four fall into homelessness, with the average waiting time for housing placements in San Francisco being an astonishing 14 years.

*“San Francisco’s barometer for success has been permanent housing placement rather than getting people off the streets,” **explained Elizabeth Funk, Founder & CEO of DignityMoves, the leader in creation of Interim Supportive Housing (“ISH”).** “That approach not only makes this crisis more visible, it is inhumane, as it abandons people on our streets for too long, making it harder for them to turn their lives around. I am thrilled to see a leader like Daniel embracing the more expansive approach that will not only bring healing and dignity to our suffering neighbors but reclaim the sanctity of public spaces as well.”*

Daniel Lurie was the founder of Tipping Point, an organization that has helped house more than 38,000 people since 2015. Lurie is also the only candidate running for mayor to have built housing on time, under budget, with good-paying union labor, and to have held non-profit service providers accountable to deliver meaningful results.

Pursuant to his plan “Home Run,” the City of San Francisco will build enough dignified interim options that meet the wide range of individual needs such that no one needs to resort to, nor will they be allowed to, sleep on our streets. Lurie’s approach to ending unsheltered homelessness includes the following milestones and elements:

- 1. First 6 months in Office:** Immediate Disaster Response with 1,500 New Emergency Shelter Beds open 24/7
- 2. First 12 months in Office:** Open the “Release Valve” to connect people to an array of pathways off the streets including taking advantage of new State-funded mental and behavioral health recovery programs, expanding the Homeward Bound program, assistance with family reunification, and other innovative solutions.

- 3. First 2 years in Office:** Deliver on the mandate of A Place For All: create the approximately 2,500 interim “bridge” housing beds needed to have sufficient capacity for everyone willing to accept them citywide, and thus systematically and humanely be able to once again reclaim the beauty and sanctity of San Francisco’s cherished public spaces.
- 4. First Term:** Once the crisis has been stabilized, begin decommissioning the emergency units, repurposing or relocating interim housing, and redirect resources to expanding permanent housing-- not only PSH but also deeply affordable independent housing and invest in upstream solutions to tackle the root causes of homelessness.

Click [HERE](#) or see below to learn more about Home Run.



Home Run

A Comprehensive & Sustainable Plan
To Urgently Address San Francisco's
Homelessness Crisis

LURIE 羅
FOR **MAYOR** 偉

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San Francisco is experiencing a shelter crisis on par with a natural disaster. Homelessness inflicts trauma and loss of dignity on those experiencing it and creates challenges for housed neighbors, small businesses, and visitors. **San Francisco's next mayor needs to run—not walk—when it comes to homelessness. It's time to treat homelessness like the emergency it is.**



I founded Tipping Point Community in 2005 in order to build a more effective non-profit model. Since 2015, Tipping Point grantees have housed over 38,000 people, and kept thousands more from becoming homeless in the first place. I am the only candidate for mayor who has built interim bridge housing and affordable housing on-time, under budget, and with good paying union labor. I'm also the only candidate for mayor who has worked with non-profit service providers to deliver real, measurable outcomes. Based on my decades in this field, as Mayor I will execute this comprehensive strategy, called "Home Run."

Quite simply, Home Run will end unsheltered homelessness within the city limits of San Francisco once and for all.



The Problem

For more than a decade San Francisco's homelessness programs have been too focused on just one solution: building Permanent Supportive Housing ("PSH"). In fact, San Francisco has the second highest ratio of PSH beds per capita of any city in the nation, and by far the highest ratio in the Bay Area. PSH is costing our city an exorbitant \$1 million or more per unit, and it takes many years to permit and build. The average waiting time for housing placement in San Francisco is an astonishing 14 years. Data shows that for every person placed into permanent housing, four more fall into homeless. Worse, San Francisco has a massive shortage of shelter beds — only 1 for every 3 people who need one. **The result is obvious: people have no choice but to languish and die on our streets.**

Instead of treating this like a crisis, City Hall insiders have pointed fingers and blamed a court-ordered injunction. The injunction has not stopped the mayor from closing encampments, lack of action has. **No matter what the courts decide, we cannot completely clear our streets until there are enough shelter beds.** My opponents have had nearly a decade or more in City Hall to build the beds, but they failed — and they don't have the vision, leadership, or accountability to build them now.

The good news is that this problem is solvable, if we have a mayor who is bold and practical. Unsheltered homelessness is a policy decision: we have chosen to allocate resources such that one person gets a \$1 million apartment with a granite countertop instead of 30 people being brought indoors into interim bridge housing.

Many people don't realize that when people first become homeless, the majority do not yet have a debilitating enough mental health or drug addiction that would prevent them from returning to stability. After struggling for survival on the streets, trauma quickly takes a devastating toll; merely four weeks later that percentage has skyrocketed. After waiting 14 years on the streets, most people will need to rely on welfare and expensive care services for the rest of their lives. **Allowing people to languish on our streets is cruel, inhumane, and fiscally irresponsible.**

Studies show that the cost to the city of someone living on the street averages about \$75,000 per person per year in repeated ER visits, cleanup of needles and feces, jail costs, etc. **Comparatively the cost to bring people indoors and provide intensive case management, job training, and medical care is about half, around \$40,000 per person per year.** The return on investment is obvious. Furthermore, some percentage of people are able to return to being taxpayers and contributing members of society. Ensuring San Francisco's streets are clean, safe and accessible to all is imperative to revitalizing our downtown corridors and tourism industry.



"We deserve streets and parks that are safe and clean. Ending unsheltered homelessness is the right thing to do for everyone — housed, unhoused, and our city budget."

A Practical, Results-Driven Plan

Backed by extensive data analysis and expert input, my Home Run plan calls for creating 1,500 emergency short term shelter beds in my first six months in office and 2,500 units of interim bridge housing in my first two years. Through this plan, we can immediately begin clearing encampments and reclaiming our public space while laying the groundwork to end unsheltered homelessness once and for all.

As planned new permanent supportive housing (PSH) comes online in the coming years, experts believe it will take approximately 5-7 years to cycle through the backlog on the streets. As people are placed into PSH, we can scale back the interim units accordingly. Some interim bridge housing will likely be needed indefinitely, as homelessness will always occur to some degree. However, if people have a safe place to come immediately, most will only need a few months of interim housing while they get back on their feet — meaning they won't need the years of costly city services associated with PSH. To be clear, interim housing alone doesn't solve homelessness, affordable housing does. But our streets cannot be the waiting room.

The State has been urging cities to take unsheltered homelessness seriously, and provided extensive tools to enable them to do so: emergency building codes and zoning provisions, massive funding sources such as Prop 1, and legislation that enables the rapid deployment of interim housing. The federal government is now recognizing that "housing is health" and provides significant reimbursement for services such as intensive case management and housing navigation.

While Home Run will require significant one-time upfront funding, as a practical and resourceful mayor I believe we will be able to offset much of the cost with creativity and partnerships — including corporate and philanthropic private sector support. At Tipping Point, we raised over half-a-billion dollars to fight poverty, and I partnered with governments across the Bay Area to fight homelessness. I am uniquely qualified to leverage the power of the private sector to play an important role in responding to this crisis.

"My plan will bring immediate relief to both housed and unhoused residents, reclaim our public spaces, and stop wasting taxpayer dollars. Together with our Drug Crisis, Mental Health, and City Hall Accountability Plans — we'll be able to keep it that way."



At Tipping Point Community, we created an innovative model for quick, affordable, and effective interim bridge housing like this site at 33 Gough. City Hall failed to replicate our success, creating just one additional site at 3x the cost and years longer.

Home Run Action Plan:

First 6 Months As Mayor

Immediate Disaster Response with 1,500 New Emergency Shelter Beds

Our city declared a Housing Crisis in 2015, giving the Mayor and elected officials broad emergency powers — that have largely gone unused. I will exercise my emergency powers to their fullest extent and deploy at least 1,500 emergency housing placements in the first 6 months. Importantly, unlike today's shelter beds these will be open 24/7 with services and supervision. We will reclaim our public spaces and enforce laws against camping. I will transfer responsibility for emergency and interim shelter to the Department of Emergency Management, reporting directly to the mayor, to move at the speed this disaster requires.

When we scale up additional alternatives like interim bridge housing, we will close down these emergency shelters — as is done in any disaster response. We anticipate these beds will be in operation for about 18 months as people are cycled through to their next placement. These temporary accommodations will provide immediate relief to our unsheltered population, offering not just a bed, but a path to services.

First 12 Months As Mayor

Open the "Release Valve" to speed transition to stability

City Hall has shown that despite infusions of unprecedented dollars, unsheltered homelessness has jumped by 22% from 2017 to 2022. Every day we wait, another person on the street gets sicker, more addicted, and further from help. Every day the bottleneck in the system grows. We will take action to get more people off the street by:

- Increasing funding to *Homeward Bound*, a program that connects people with family and support systems outside San Francisco
- Holding city departments and nonprofits accountable to outcomes, like the number of cumulative nights per year people slept unsheltered on the street



"People need to be held accountable, but systems need to be held accountable too. City Hall's response to homelessness has failed."



Home Run Action Plan:

First 2 Years As Mayor

Create 2,500 Proven Interim “Bridge” Housing Units

San Francisco currently has an estimated 14-year backlog due to decades of under-investment in shelter and housing capacity. We can't wait that long. We will create 2,500 dignified interim “bridge” housing units using quick, modular construction that can be relocated easily. These units will provide privacy and dignity to people previously living on the street or in a vehicle. They will have four walls and a door that locks, as they prepare to launch a self-sufficient life.

Populations with different needs can be paired with specialized sites, for example: domestic violence survivors, families with children, transgender/nonconforming, newly unhoused, etc. Critically, through this effort we can commit to ending unsheltered family homelessness by the end of my first term by prioritizing families with children for bridge and permanent housing.

We will work with stakeholders to create the units across sites of varying sizes using a mix of hotels/motels, existing but unfunded units, moveable modular shelters, etc.

First Term As Mayor

End People Living on Our Streets

As progress continues, emergency beds and interim bridge housing sites can be scaled back. Experts estimate these interim housing sites could be needed for between 2-7 years to cycle through the backlog. There may always be a need for a modest number of units for interim use; those will likely be best suited for hotel/motel conversions or permanent building acquisitions.

Critically, this is an emergency intervention with clear beginning and end points. We will keep our public spaces clear and enforce our laws instead of shuffling people from one street to the next. **We will put an end once and for all to the narrative that San Francisco is where you can come to live on the street.** We will put greater investment in upstream solutions to preventing homelessness in the first place like housing security, shallow rent subsidies, and early interventions which are not only more cost effective, but also currently shamefully underutilized.



Conclusion

Now that it's an election year, we're hearing tough talk about cleaning up the streets from the same people who squandered opportunity after opportunity. City Hall has consistently come up short, while giving residents a list of excuses why it can't be done. They've failed to build enough beds. And they don't have the vision, leadership, or accountability to build them now. It's time for a new era of accountable leadership. The insiders who got us into this mess have proven themselves incapable of getting us out of it. As the only candidate for mayor who has actually built both affordable housing and interim bridge housing during my time as CEO of Tipping Point Communities, I can tell you it doesn't have to be this way.

San Franciscans, both housed and unhoused, suffer through a humanitarian crisis on our streets. Children should not have to dodge needles and encampments on the way to school. The sidewalks are for all San Franciscans and a Lurie administration will finally reclaim our public spaces and deliver on the failed promises of City Hall.



Accountable Leadership &
New Ideas for San Francisco

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FOR MAYOR 偉



Learn more about Daniel's plans: DanielLurie.com/priorities

Ad paid for by Daniel Lurie for Mayor 2024. Financial disclosures are available at sfethics.org.

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Daniel Lurie was born and raised in San Francisco. He founded Tipping Point Community in 2005. Under his direction as CEO, Tipping Point has raised over half a billion dollars to help house, employ, educate and support hundreds of thousands of Bay Area families. Last year alone, Tipping Point provided over six thousand people with services that either helped them transition out of homelessness or prevented them from experiencing it.

Last year, he co-founded the Civic Joy Fund, an organization that aims to increase civic engagement and assist in the economic recovery of San Francisco. Daniel also led efforts to construct an 100% affordable housing development with union labor on Bryant Street that came in on-time and under budget.

Former Mayor Ed Lee selected Daniel in 2013 to lead the San Francisco Bay Area Super Bowl 50 Host Committee, an effort that brought over \$240 million in economic impact to the region. Following the devastating fires in the North Bay in 2017, Daniel and Tipping Point partnered with 90 Bay Area business and community leaders to organize Band Together – a benefit concert that raised \$17 million for those hardest hit by the deadly fires. In total, Tipping Point’s Emergency Fire Relief Fund raised over \$34 million.

Lurie is a lifelong Democrat. He lives in San Francisco with his wife Becca and two school-aged children.