

Member, Board of Supervisors
District 1



City and County of San Francisco

SANDRA LEE FEWER

李麗嫦 市參事

August 1, 2018

Chair Packard and Members of the Ballot Simplification Committee
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place
City Hall, Room 48
San Francisco, CA 94102
Via email to: publications@sfgov.org

Re: Our City Our Home Homeless Tax Measure (November, 2018)

Dear Chair Packard and Members of the Ballot Simplification Committee:

Thank you again for your hard work ensuring an informed electorate and working to have easily digestible information for San Francisco voters.

The proposed language for this ballot is very thoughtful, and we just have clarifying language we would like to insert. In particular, we want to make sure voters are clear on exactly what services are funded with this measure. In this area, we believe the summary language from the use of funds section of the initiative should be used as it describes clearly to voters what the category of services those funds are limited to with regards to use. We found the language of the housing section in need of some simplifying, as written, it could lead to a misunderstanding that the funds are for assistance in locating housing as opposed to funding to pay for the housing itself. In the homeless prevention category, the key word prevention is omitted. This should be inserted as every service in this 15% category is meant to keep homeless people in their housing, or to quickly return to it if it is still available to them. This type of activity is generally understood to be "homeless prevention" as is described as such in the initiative legal text.

Current Language:

The Board of Supervisors would determine each fiscal year how to distribute the funds from these additional taxes, within these limits:

- At least 50 percent for services to help homeless people secure permanent housing;

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- At least 25 percent for mental health services specifically designed for homeless people with severe behavioral health issues;
- Up to 15 percent for services for people who have recently become homeless or are at risk of becoming homeless; and
- Up to 10 percent for services to help homeless people secure short-term shelter and access to hygiene programs.

Proposed Language

The Board of Supervisors would determine each fiscal year how to distribute the funds from these additional taxes, within these limits:

- At least 50 percent for permanent housing for ~~services to help~~ homeless people secure ~~permanent housing~~;
- At least 25 percent for mental health services specifically designed for homeless people with severe behavioral health issues;
- Up to 15 percent for homeless prevention services for people who have recently become homeless or are at risk of becoming homeless; and
- Up to 10 percent for services to help homeless people secure short-term shelter and access to hygiene programs.

Thank you again for your consideration. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact my office at 415-554-7410.

Sincerely,

Sandra Lee Fewer

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