



City and County of San Francisco
Shelter Monitoring Committee

Dear Director Kositsky:

The Committee is urging you and your department to include the Navigation Centers under the Standards of Care and the purview of our Committee. As a Committee, we are charged with ensuring safe, sanitary and dignified shelters for our homeless residents. To this end, we believe that the Navigation Centers must fall under our purview to maintain an equitable homeless shelter system and ensure all homeless clients receive secure, professional services.

In 2016, the Board of Supervisors passed Ordinance No. 117-16 that amended Administrative Code Chapter 106 and required San Francisco to open and operate no fewer than six Navigation Centers by July 31, 2018. Without these Navigation Centers falling under the purview of our Committee, the result will be hundreds of homeless San Franciscans residing in shelters without the Standards of Care or the ability to file formal complaints with an outside organization. We strongly believe these residents not only deserve this protection but are entitled to it under City law.

As a Committee we are also obligated to provide the Mayor, the Board of Supervisors, the Local Homeless Coordinating Board, and City agencies with accurate and comprehensive information related to the conditions and operations of our City's homeless shelters and resource centers. Without access to Navigation Center clients and the facilities in which they reside we will not be able to fulfill these obligations to our fellow citizens and legislators.

Under the Planning Code Section 102, a "Homeless Shelter" is defined as "living and/or sleeping accommodations without any fee to individuals and families who are homeless." Undoubtedly, the Navigation Centers fit this definition. Furthermore, the same section of the Planning Code states "homeless shelters shall comply with the requirements of the Standards of Care for City Shelters contained in Administrative Code, Chapter 20, Article XIII, including the requirement for operational standards in Section 20. 404(d)."

We are asking that the efforts of our predecessors and the legal protections they fought for be respected and followed and that the human rights of all shelter residents are upheld. Again, we urge you and your department to sanction the Standards of Care in our City's Navigation Centers in accordance with San Francisco law.

Sincerely,

Moses Mukami, Chair