



Northern
California

2024 Mayoral Candidate Questionnaire

Candidate Response: **Keith Freedman**

1. WHAT WILL YOU DO TO ENSURE THAT SAN FRANCISCO FOLLOWS ITS OWN POLICY TO OFFER APPROPRIATE SHELTER TO UNHOUSED INDIVIDUALS PRIOR TO CITING OR ARRESTING PEOPLE?

My Rising Tide Initiative (SFMayorKeith.com/RisingTide) would effectively end homelessness. It would house 100% of our current unhoused population in a way which restores dignity, provides physical and mental health services, life skills and job skills training, community building and a real path to a self-fulfilling life.

2. HOW WILL YOU INCREASE EMERGENCY SHELTER AND AFFORDABLE HOUSING IN SAN FRANCISCO?

I plan to implement a uniform planning code by neighborhood, similar to the one that has been developed over a decade but then scrapped by the current President of the BoS in favor of continuing the current methodology of lot based zoning variances.

With a uniform planning code, housing gets built if it meets the code. No time wasted on special single purpose legislative acts to build housing. In addition I will streamline our planning and DBI to reduce overhead and delays in construction. We should be able to go from concept to keys in 2.5 years instead of 5 or more.

Reducing the time and overhead in construction will reduce holding costs and administrative costs allowing builders to find value in building in San Francisco.

To increase the percentage of affordable housing in these new projects I plan to use The City's affordable housing budget to pay for additional affordable units in these projects. This will significantly lower the cost per unit potentially in half, and give builders incentives to build these units.

Similarly, I plan to implement a program where the city will pay to build more housing wherever there are single family homes. This will be done by partnering with the homeowner and giving them a financial incentive to build the housing. As an example, If a single-family home sits on a lot zoned for 6 units, The City would build the new 6 units (usually done by raising up the existing house and building in additional stories underneath—this is among the least expensive ways to add units in San Francisco— the

homeowner would get one of the new units as compensation for sharing the land and now living in a HoA, The City can sell 2 of the units at market rate and put 2 of the units into the least served affordable housing pool, such as teacher or first responder housing.

As an example: <https://www.newavenuehomes.com/projects/oakland-house-lift-and-adu>
An additional 1000sq. Ft. unit in Oakland cost only \$480k. Adding 5 units to a similar structure in SF could cost as little as \$400k per unit (1/3 of what San Francisco currently pays for an affordable housing unit). The 2 market rate units could sell for \$1.2-\$1.4 million in which case The City would actually turn a profit and get 2 affordable units for free.

3. WHAT DO YOU SEE AS THE ROLE OF ALTERNATIVE TO INCARCERATION AS A FORM OF ACCOUNTABILITY WHEN A PERSON IS ARRESTED?

I'm all for giving people second chances, but at some point, when it's clear they're not working, we have to have real consequences for people.

If people are routed to a diversion program or some sort of treatment program there should be a long probation period during which time they will suffer more severe consequences for recidivism. It's clear that our current system doesn't provide enough incentive to keep people from resuming criminal activity. It may also lack supportive tools to help people make better choices.

We can offer bigger carrots, including jobs training and job placement assistance, potentially life skills training or whatever else someone is lacking that makes a life of crime a preferable choice to one of hard work and determination. If they reject the carrot then we need a bigger stick.

4. WHAT IS YOUR OPINION ON ESTABLISHING A PROGRAM (SUCH AS CART) AS AN ALTERNATIVE TO POLICE CALLS TO RESPOND TO PEOPLE WHO ARE UNHOUSED, STRUGGLING WITH SUBSTANCE ABUSE, OR IN MENTAL HEALTH CRISES THROUGH THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT? PLEASE EXPLAIN.

Most certainly police responding to someone living their life on the streets is neither a good use of police time nor an effective way to assist unhoused people. My Rising Tide Initiative should mitigate much of the need for this program but it will have appropriate staff on hand to help people in need and maintain order on the Cruise Ships. Police response should be reserved for violent or criminal activity. In any case,

people should be treated with dignity and respect, even if they exhibit behavior that makes it appear they lack those characteristics. How we treat people impacts their motivation and can inform the outcome. I'm reminded of Morgan Freeman's line from "Lean on Me," "if you treat them like animals, that's exactly how they'll behave." This is especially important when people have lost respect for themselves. We can help people build self-respect by showing them what respect looks like.

5. SAN FRANCISCO MEASURE E SHIFTED CERTAIN POLICYMAKING AND OVERSIGHT POWERS RELATED TO POLICING AND SURVEILLANCE FROM THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS AND THE POLICE COMMISSION TO THE SAN FRANCISCO POLICE DEPARTMENT. WHAT SAFEGUARDS, OVERSIGHT OR REVISIONS WOULD YOU SUPPORT TO PROVIDE PROTECTIONS FOR THE RIGHTS OF PEOPLE IN SAN FRANCISCO?

I supported Measure E. I think we deal with this by disbanding the police commission. The mayor should be minding the store and ensuring our police are acting within City Policy and within reason. The Board of Supervisors can take on the oversight role the police commission has. City policy can set boundaries for the police, but they should have latitude to implement technology to insure public safety. I recognize that there are some flaws in technology such as facial recognition bias, but those things can be mitigated through implementation policies. We shouldn't discard a technology simply because it has flaws. We can be aware of its flaws and mitigate them through police officer training.