

Press Advisory
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**San Francisco Campers and Neighbors Speak Out About Luis Gongora Murder
and Continued Sweeps of Encampments**

What: **Press Conference**

When: **Thursday, April 21st at 2:00pm**

Where: **Clarion Alley “Housing is a Human Right” mural - 150 feet from Valencia on west side of Clarion Alley. Alley runs between Mission and Valencia, parallel 17th street.**

San Francisco, CA- A shooting by police officers of Luis Gongora, a Mayan Speaking man and father of three children from the Yucatan last Thursday, April 7th was met with a response from both Supervisor Wiener and Mayor Lee calling for homeless sweeps city wide. The Coalition on Homeless, with Supervisor John Avalos as our champion, is calling for a humane response to encampments that truly solves the issue, by ensuring a clear housing relocation prior to removal.

Earlier this year, a recent widely publicized removal of an encampment containing approximately 300 people along Division Street received broad media attention as the City only provided temporary lodging for about half the residents, in direct violation of guidelines set forth by the US Interagency Council on Homelessness which recommend securing housing before encampments are removed. The Coalition on Homelessness is concerned that the relocation efforts of homeless people from encampments on Division Street and more recently on Shotwell Street, and around the city have only further destabilized the homeless community, have simply pushed homeless people, in most cases, a very short distance away, and in many scenarios campers have lost contact with services, lost medicines and survival gear and had their fundamental human rights violated.

“Homeless and street-based San Franciscans have been surviving these on-going sweeps for months, and in some cases years,” said Bilal Ali, Human Rights Organizer of the SF Coalition on Homelessness. “Instead of actually addressing the issue, the city is continuing this failed policy of displacement rather than listening to us homeless people as we state the logical solution to the growing crisis, which is housing. Luis Gongora would still be alive had he been inside. Bottom-line.”

Homeless people suffer from sleep deprivation, absent a right to rest, they are woken

frequently by police and security. Their voices have been nearly eliminated from the discussions currently before San Francisco elected officials today. We invite press and media makers to listen to the voices of and ask questions directly to those who have been surviving the sweeps, witnessing the violence, and have sustainable, logical solutions to share.

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