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the EIR**

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Topic A: Homeless



850 at summit focus on S.F.'s No. 1 problem

City's tab for the homeless: \$104 million

At the end of a marathon sunup-to-sundown convergence on March 7 of homeless advocates, politicians, service providers and the homeless, Supervisor Chris Daly, the Homeless Summit's helmsman, summed up the day: "The good news is we had seven supervisors and the mayor here today... but it was the mayor of Santa Cruz."

Guffaws and jeers rang out from the several hundred people still seated in Herbst Theater, which at times was filled with up to 850 attendees. Though the summit was billed as a "first ever," the absent Mayor Willie Brown had proposed a similar event more than five years ago, then shelved the idea because of the problem's intractability.

"It [the summit] was suggested many years ago, and, frankly, people got a little chicken 's' about it," said Board of Supervisors President Tom Ammiano, in his opening statement.

**Snubbed by
the
mayor**

George Smith, director of the Mayor's Office on Homelessness, attended, but the mayor's absence



Karen Oberdorfer

remained conspicuous. The mayor had "scheduling conflicts" that day, according to P.J. Johnston, Brown's press secretary. (One was an Irish flag-raising ceremony that Brown has routinely attended over the years.)

But the main reason, said Johnston, was Mayor Brown's expectation that only one perspective would be represented, preventing real dialogue from occurring. "There is a fairly clear policy directive on homeless issues, but Supervisor Daly has constantly opposed most of them," Johnston said. He also said Daly was just trying to "garner attention" for himself.

Focus: Continuum of Care

Daly called for the summit, said aide Rick Galbreath, in response to Supervisors Tony Hall's and Gavin Newsom's recent suggestions — measures to restrict panhandling and sleeping on sidewalks, and criminalize using sidewalks as piss-oirs, behavior that affects "quality of life" in the city.

"We also want to remind people that the Continuum of Care exists as city policy," Galbreath said.

For the city to receive almost \$10 million from HUD's Stewart B. McKinney fund, the city must have a five-year Continuum of

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Belts are tightening, yet sometimes it's hard to tell the size of the waistline. Here's the latest numbers for what San Francisco will spend on homeless programs in fiscal year 2001-02 based on a report from Budget Analyst Harvey Rose, in response to a query from Supervisors Gavin Newsom and Chris Daly.

This fiscal year the city will have spent a total of \$104,288,056 on homeless programs, said Rose's report, dated Dec. 31. The General Fund coughs up 51.5%, with the remainder from state and federal grants and bond money.

Costs for the homeless include \$72,982,026 for direct services, \$18,681,807 for capital improvements to homeless services buildings, \$3,165,427 for administrative costs, and \$9,458,796 in aid payments from County Adult Assistance Program (CAAP).

There are three main types of direct services:

Front-End Services cover crisis intervention, emergency shelters, eviction prevention services and transportation and outreach. They account for 23% (\$24 million) of the total.

Transitional Services, estimated at 10.9% of the total (\$11.4 million), are provided through longer-term residential programs with services aimed at stopping the person's cycle of

homelessness. Substance abuse and mental health programs are examples.

Long-Term Stabilization Services make up 36.1% (\$37.6 million) of the total homeless services budget. They include outpatient mental health and substance abuse services, and help finding permanent housing and a job.

The \$18.6 million for capital improvements comes through the mayor's offices of Housing and Community Development, the Redevelopment Agency and the Dept. of Human Services. The largest capital improvement funded went to Episcopal Community Services (\$4,912,929) and TNDC-West Hotel SRO, Inc. (\$2,059,016). Both projects are funded by the mayor's housing office and will be used mainly for housing acquisition, construction or rehab of buildings to house the homeless or people at risk of homelessness.

Administrative costs (\$3,165,427) accounted for 3% of the total. The costs are split among: Dept. of Human Services, Dept. of Public Health, Mayor's Office of Community Development, Mayor's Office of Housing, Redevelopment Agency and Dept. of Children, Youth and Their Families.

DHS got the most (\$1,644,633);

it funded 43% of the direct services.

The County Adult Assistance Programs, which get 9% (\$9.4 million) of the total homeless services budget, provide Personal Assisted Employment Services, General Assistance, Cash Assistance to Medi-Cal and Supplemental Security Income Pending. The average monthly payment to a homeless adult in the program ranges from \$274 to \$385 a month.

Newsom has introduced legislation to change the CAAP cash programs to "in kind assistance." Instead of money, a portion of the CAAP assistance would be given in the form of vouchers to cover food and housing. Many activists consider this as hurtful and unfair because people's money for Muni, laundry and sundries, etc. would disappear, Newsom says his coupons will pay for such personal items, removing any option of using the cash to feed any addictions.

Rose's report included salaries for the Mayor's Office on Homelessness, though that office does not provide any direct services or fund any capital improvement projects. The report said, "The Mayor's Office on Homelessness did not submit any information to the Budget Analyst on services it provides."

- Karen Oberdorfer