

Prop N plans being readied amid turmoil at City Hall

TL Housing Clinic's master lease hotels key to 'Care Not Cash'

BY TOM CARTER

When Proposition N was passed by the voters seven months ago, it started officials scrambling to meet the complex challenges imposed by the too-quick July 1 deadline when "Care Not Cash" was to kick in.

The proposition directed the Department of Human Services to get everything ready.

Now, of course, Prop N is up in the air. A ruling May 8 by Superior Court Judge Ronald Quidachay, saying the electorate could not determine fees for the indigent, tossed it back on the Board of Supervisors' table. Only there can it get a legitimizing vote, the judge said.

And there, despite having been passed by a sizable margin of their constituents, the supervisors, for whatever reason, have certainly not leaped to enact it. Deliberations continue as the board considers Prop N and alternate proposals.

Even so, DHS proceeded with its responsibilities to have everything operational by July 1, or as soon as possible, and continues to do so.

"We had gotten fairly far along and it (the plan) is fairly well developed," said a source at the DHS Division of

Housing and Homeless Programs, the unit responsible for the "Not Cash" portion of the proposition. "But until we know what kind of budget we have, there is little we can do. The expansion of the Master Lease Program is not solely contingent upon the implementation of Prop N, but upon the availability of fund in general."

DHS had gotten the food lined up from Glide, the multiple services from newly renamed Community Behavioral Health Services, increased the number of rooms for housing through Tenderloin Housing Clinic, and had put an efficient citywide Homeless Management Information System in place. The latter, though not a condition of Prop N, provides a one-stop visit that logs in recipients and their needs, and reserves them a room. Previously, the homeless often had to traipse to several sites before getting in for the night.

Prop N aimed to give "Care" to 2,800 single males in the County Adult Assistance Programs (CAAP). Care would be food, shelter and services, including a methadone

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"We do have a couple of new contracts, and we are continuing to negotiate others."

Trent Rborer
DHS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

SING-SONG

St. Anthony again fails to impress vexed neighbors

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1,200 learn how to rise above fund-raising doldrums

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CENTRAL CITY

EXTRA!

SAN FRANCISCO

WHEN PRIVILEGE MEETS POVERTY



ILLUSTRATION BY CARL ANGEL

Retreating: The view outside the 21 Club's picture window.

Uphill, downhill

The Fools' retreats open eyes and hearts to life on the street

BY ED BOWERS

Walking past a Tenderloin intoxication of the senses, sublime with life and intense with intentional filth, I approach the Faithful Fools Ministry. I'm supposed to interview the Rev. Kay Jorgensen and Sister Carmen Barsody. Yesterday, I interviewed

Sister Bernie Galvin [Religious Witness with Homeless People]. I am about to meet more nuns in two days than I've met in 54 years.

For starters, I asked about the inspiration for the Faithful Fools Ministry.

K.J.: I'm a Unitarian social justice minister. Eight years ago I was walking the streets of the Tenderloin to become acquainted with people on the streets so I could take their story back up to the Unitarian Church to encourage a link between those of us on Cathedral Hill who come from a place of privilege and money, and the homeless sleeping on the church steps. Three years later, I met Sister Carmen.

S.C.: I'm a Franciscan sister. I'd been living in Nicaragua for seven years, and I'd come up to Berkeley to work with a spiritual teacher, an old friend of Kay's. I was drawn toward the issue of homelessness here — it felt like a

place to make a connection in our country with the impoverishment of people worldwide because of systemic injustice. Kay and I arranged to meet in a coffee shop, and there we knew in that time of sharing that we would move together. In January 1998, we founded the Faithful Fools.

Bowers: You have a copy shop, zazen meditation, Bible study and street retreats where people go out to experience what it's like to be homeless. This seems like a big little organization.

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PHOTO BY LENNY LIMJOCO

The Rev. Kay Jorgensen (left) and Sister Carmen Barsody of the Faithful Fools Ministry.