



## THE EAST CUT

April 30, 2020

Honorable London Breed  
San Francisco City Hall, Room 200  
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place  
San Francisco, CA 94102

Dear Mayor Breed:

Thank you for your quick action and decisive leadership in the midst of this unprecedented pandemic. You acted when others hesitated and the residents of San Francisco are healthier and safer as a result. It is clear your early action has led to flattening the curve and the spread of COVID-19.

As you are aware, The East Cut Community Benefit District (CBD) provides services to homeless individuals, and it is from these years of experience directly serving the homeless population of our neighborhood, as well as recent direct experience with them during the pandemic, that I am appealing to you today.

The concern from those of us on the ground during this crisis is that the hard work accomplished by your office, city officials, and first responders might be undone by creating a Safe Sleeping Site at the former Temporary Transbay Terminal. The CDC recommends against breaking up homeless encampments, and thus stirring up the aerosol-transmitted COVID-19. The East Cut's hard-working clean-and-safe team continues to operate 24 hours a day, and I can share with you that the expanding encampment we have in the neighborhood does not socially distance and the individuals sheltering there have said they will not move to the temporary terminal site. To that end, I strongly recommend against use of the Temporary Transbay Terminal as a Safe Sleeping Site.

The East Cut is home to more than 13,000 residents today, and continues to grow. As San Francisco heads into the next phase of the shelter in place order, it is unwise to increase the likelihood that COVID-19 will circulate in the City's newest high-density residential neighborhood. The site is immediately adjacent to the neighborhood's one grocery store, and is bordered on three sides by mixed income high-rise buildings. It is not a risk worth taking

But doing nothing for our unhoused community members is not an option. The East Cut CBD supports leveraging already available hotel rooms to house San Franciscans needing a safe space in which to shelter in place. Hotel rooms provide not only much-needed shelter, but also effective social distancing to reduce transmission of COVID-19 and the ability of staff to monitor the guests staying in them. If you are considering adequately staffing a safe sleeping site, the same could be done at a hotel.

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There must be a safe, clean space for unhoused individuals to shelter from during this time and it is our belief that utilizing vacant and available hotels is the best route to address the aerosol spread of COVID-19. Finally, I would like to call out that the Temporary Transbay Terminal site is in the active planning and permitting stage for the development of hundreds of affordable housing units for thousands of senior citizens, families, and others. I would urge the city not to create conditions, no matter the duration, that would dissuade and further delay this much-needed housing investment.

Thank you again for your leadership at this difficult time and for your willingness to address the concerns of all residents, including those living in The East Cut.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'AR', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Andrew Robinson  
Executive Director  
On behalf of The East Cut Community Benefit District Board of Directors

Cc: Chief of Staff Sean Elsbernd  
Honorable Matt Haney, District 6 Supervisor  
Mary Ellen Carroll, Department of Emergency Management  
Jeff Kositsky, HSOC

