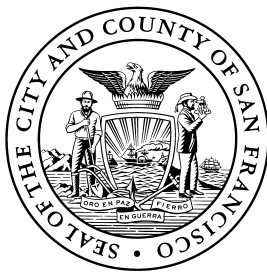


City and County
of San Francisco



Board of Supervisors,
District 6

MATT DORSEY

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NEWS RELEASE

Supervisor Dorsey proposes ‘Right to Recovery’ drug enforcement priority zones near treatment facilities

Illegal drugs used in public would be subject to confiscation; drug dealers to immediate arrest in designated areas to protect those in recovery, incentivize public support

SAN FRANCISCO (June 14, 2022) — Supervisor Matt Dorsey today requested legislation that would establish drug enforcement priority zones within a set distance of facilities in San Francisco serving individuals who seek recovery from substance or alcohol use disorder. The proposed legislation “would neither change nor enhance existing penalties for illegal drug use or sales,” according to Dorsey’s two-page request of City Attorney David Chiu’s office today. Rather, it would create “Right to Recovery” zones as designated priorities for local law enforcement in which police officers would be requested to...

- Immediately confiscate illegal drugs and paraphernalia being used or displayed publicly, with or without citation; and
- Immediately arrest and take into custody anyone engaged in the sale of controlled substances.

“This is about better protecting those who take the brave first step of seeking recovery from addiction or alcoholism from the dangerous influences of open-air drug scenes and predatory drug dealers,” said Dorsey. “It’s also about extending harm reduction to our neighborhoods. After many conversations with neighborhood residents, I’m convinced this is the best way for

us to incentivize public support for more treatment facilities, sober living environments, and supervised consumption sites, which I believe are essential if San Francisco is to turn the tide on our ongoing crisis of drug overdose fatalities. I'm grateful to all the residents and community leaders with whom I've discussed this proposal. I look forward to working with them and City Attorney Chiu's office to hammer out details of our forthcoming legislation."

"The San Francisco Adult Probation Department has launched several drug-free programs and led numerous recovery initiatives over the past several years," said Chief Cristel Tullock of the San Francisco Adult Probation Department. "It's critical that we, as a city, do not shy away from the real impact drugs are having on our community. The 'Right to Recovery' initiative will ensure that people who are striving to live a drug-free life will have a safe space to recover and a 'non-triggering' environment to rebuild their life."

Under the legislation Dorsey requested today, applicable properties would include "private or public residential and outpatient treatment facilities, sober living environments (or SLEs), and harm-reduction models such as supervised consumption facilities." Details that remain to be determined in Dorsey's forthcoming legislation include the size of "Right to Recovery" zones and how they will be identified to notice potential violators. Dorsey's letter to the City Attorney noted that this proposed legislation is one among other possible policy proposals that is part of a "Right to Recovery" plan, which he hopes "will both encourage and better support those struggling with substance and alcohol use disorder who seek recovery."

Appointed to a San Francisco Board of Supervisors vacancy by Mayor London Breed last month, Dorsey became the first acknowledged member of the substance use recovery community to serve on the board in a generation. He represents the District 6 neighborhoods of SOMA, Mid-Market, Rincon Hill, East Cut, Treasure Island, South Beach, Mission Bay, Showplace Square, the Hub and portions of Civic Center.

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For immediate release: June 14, 2022

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