

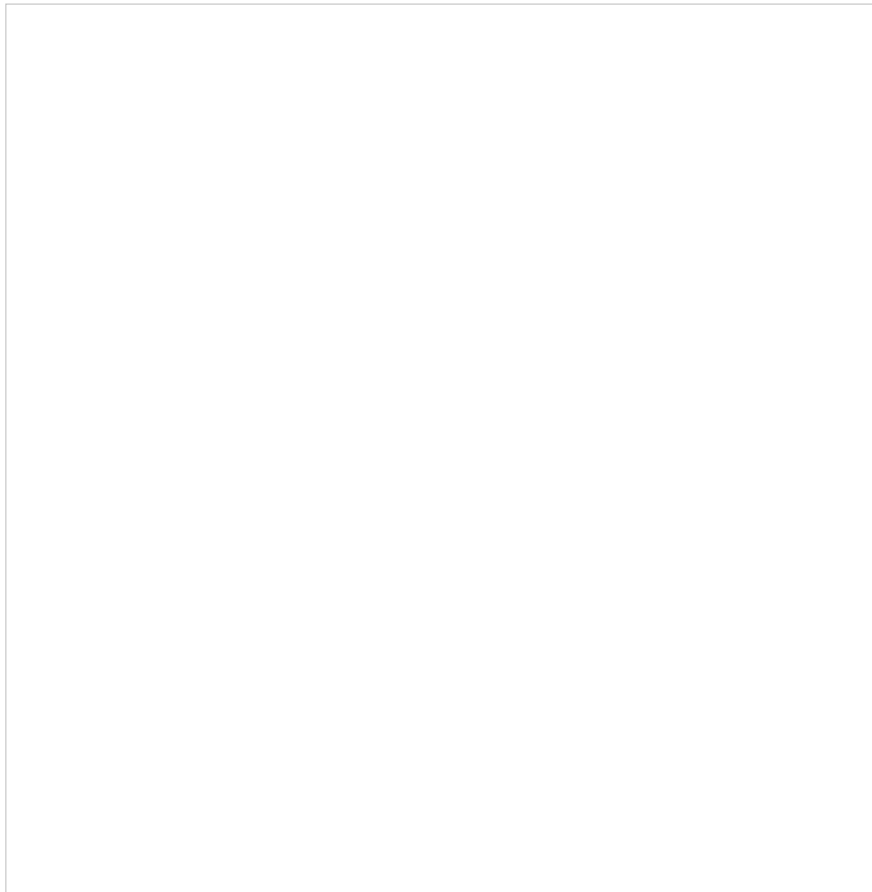
San Francisco's Sick Depravity Laid Bare

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San Francisco's sick depravity laid bare: Images show city streets crowded with tents as figures show 8,000 are homeless - but woke politicians do nothing as business owners threatening to withhold taxes

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- The shocking images brought into stark focus the homelessness problems facing the progressive city
- Rows of tents were pictured lined up outside businesses with people's belongings strewn across the sidewalk
- Homelessness in SF is higher now than at any other time bar 2019, according to an official count in February
- Comes as Castro Merchants Association threatened to stop paying city taxes due to loss of trade
- Group said it is sick of homeless living outside their entrances, threatening customers and vandalizing stores
- California Governor Gavin Newsom meanwhile recently vetoed a bill that would have allowed cities to open supervised drug-injection sites which help addicts to access regulated substances and attend rehabilitation

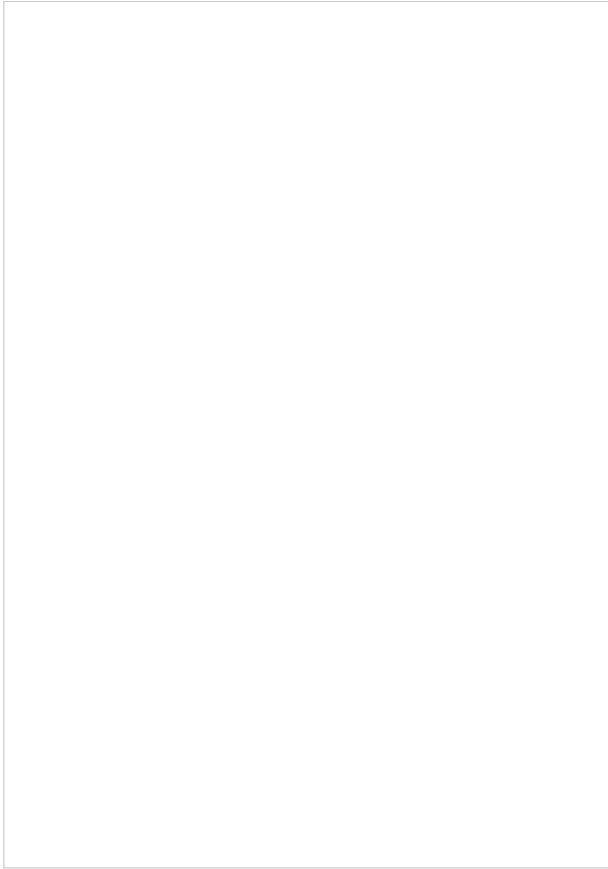


By [Jennifer Smith, Chief Reporter](#) and [Melissa Koenig](#) and [David Averde](#)

A flood of new images from the streets of San Francisco have brought into stark focus the extent of the city's ongoing homelessness problem which has driven some businesses to threaten to withhold tax payments.

Rows of tents were pictured lined up outside businesses with people's belongings strewn across the sidewalk.

Homeless individuals, some of whom were struggling with clear physical ailments as well as drug and [alcohol](#) addiction, sat in the street right outside entrances to residential properties and small businesses struggling to bounce back after highly restrictive Covid laws forced them to close, destroying revenues.



Some images depicted addicts openly smoking illegal drugs on the sidewalk and passing out on the asphalt in the middle of the day.

The number of homeless people in San Francisco was tallied in February at almost 8,000, the second highest number of any year since 2005 according to the official government count which takes place every three years.

Overall crime in the city has also increased 8 per cent versus last year with 12, 18 and 8 per cent increases in incidences of assault, theft and rape respectively.



Danielle Shannon Robles, a homeless woman who sleeps in a tent, is seen near the City Hall of San Francisco in California, United States on August 29, 2022



Homeless people are seen near the City Hall of San Francisco in California, United States on August 29, 2022



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Rows of homeless tents are seen near the City Hall of San Francisco outside residential properties and small business premises



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Homeless tents are seen near the City Hall of San Francisco in California, United States on August 29, 2022



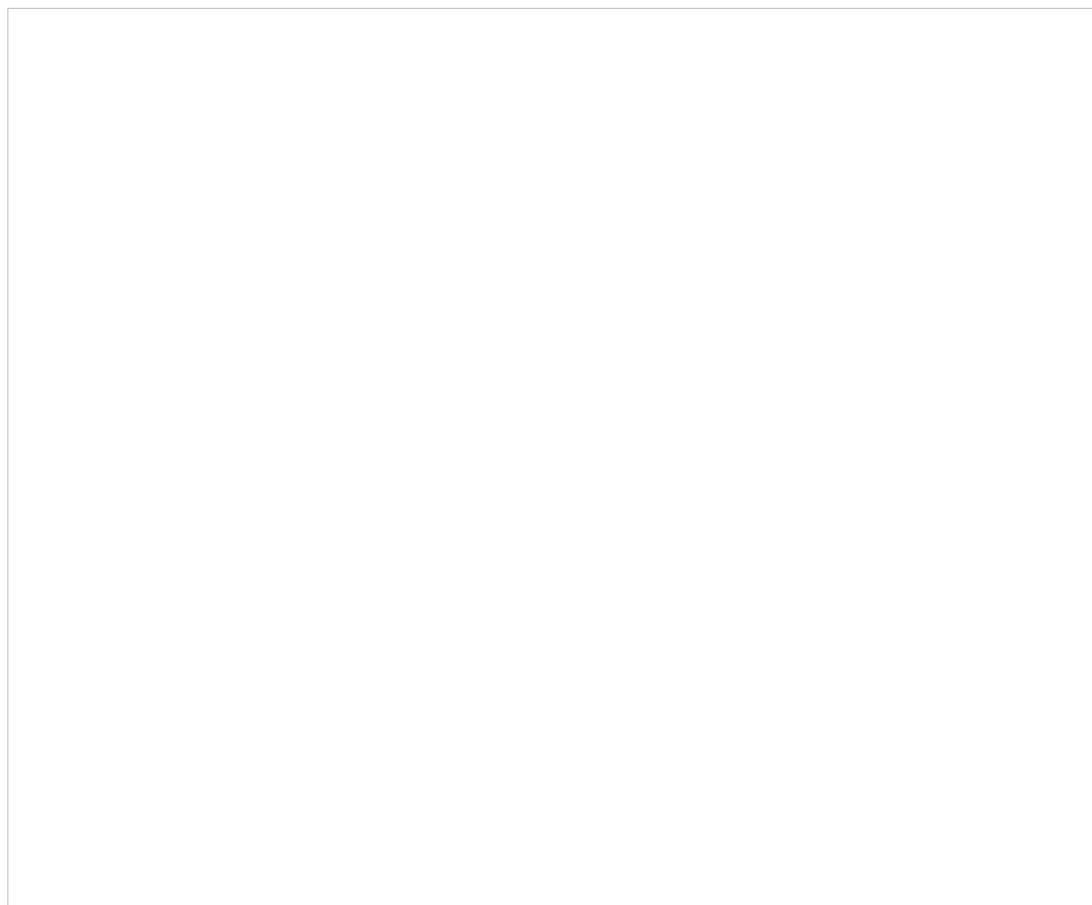
The Castro Merchants Association said their 'community is struggling to recover from lost business revenue, from burglaries and never-ending vandalism/graffiti (often committed by unhoused persons) and we implore you to take action.' Homeless people continue to use illegal narcotics on the streets surrounding the Tenderloin 'linkage center'

Business owners in San Francisco's Castro neighborhood have threatened to stop paying taxes if [woke](#) politicians don't start cleaning up streets of litter and stopping people from openly taking drugs.

In a letter to city officials earlier this month, The Castro Merchants Association said some of the homeless people in the streets outside their stores had been harassing customers and needed help.

'They need shelter and/or services and they need them immediately,' the Merchants Association said.

'Our community is struggling to recover from lost business revenue, from burglaries and never-ending vandalism/graffiti (often committed by unhoused persons) and we implore you to take action.'



They hope other business associations in different parts of the city will join them to force city officials to finally take action after years of lax policies.

'If the city can't provide the basic services for them to become a successful business, then what are we paying for?'

'You can't have a vibrant, successful business corridor when you have people passed out high on drugs, littering your sidewalk.'

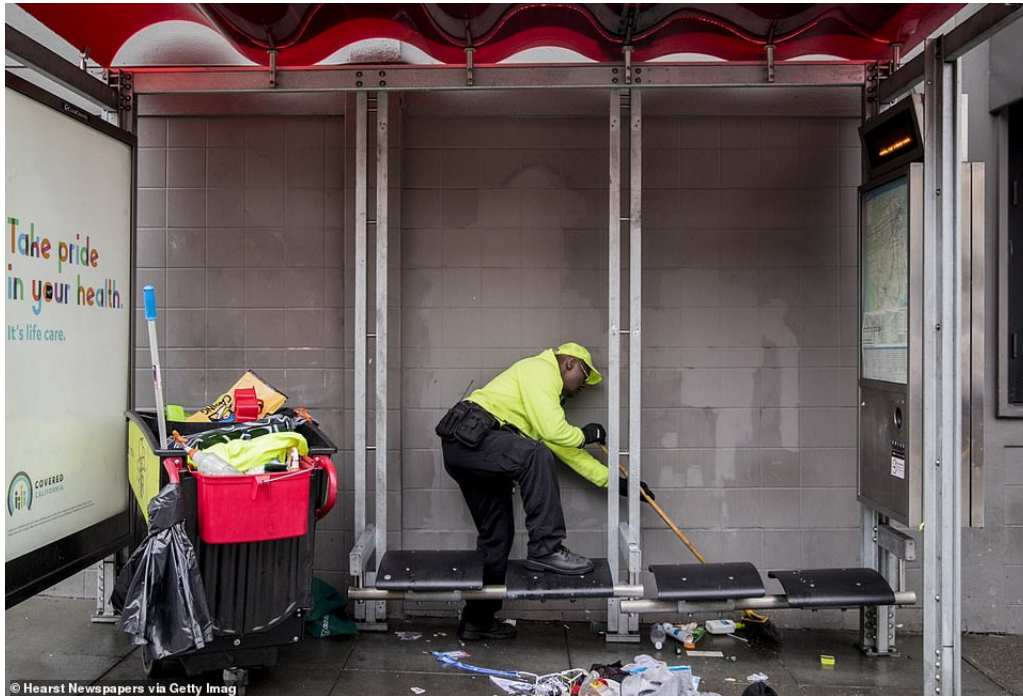
'These people need to get help,' the business association's co-president Dave Karraker told [The San Francisco Chronicle](#).



In a letter to city officials earlier this month, The Castro Merchants Association said some of the homeless people in the streets outside their stores had been harassing customers and needed help. Above, homeless tents in San Francisco earlier this summer



A city worker washes a street in the neighborhood which has become besieged by homeless people



Castro Community Benefit District cleaning ambassador Derron Jones cleans a large amount of belongings left behind by a homeless person at a bus stop along 18th Street near Castro Street in San Francisco in 2019



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A police officer watches a man clear up his belongings in the Castro district

The outrage comes as California governor Gavin Newsom vetoed a bill that would have allowed certain cities to open supervised drug-injection sites in a policy geared towards providing addicts with controlled substances in a supervised environment, connecting them with rehabilitation centers.

The hope was to stem the rising tide of fatal overdoses in the state. But in a [veto letter](#), the governor wrote that he had concerns about the 'unintended consequences' of the bill.

'I have long supported the cutting edge of harm reduction strategies,' Newsom wrote in the letter to legislators.

'However, I am acutely concerned about operations of safe injection sites without strong, engaged local leadership and well-documented, vetted and thoughtful operational and sustainability plans.'

Scott Wiener, the California lawmaker who wrote the bill, described the veto as a missed opportunity to address one of the most pressing problems in California.

He said in a statement to the [New York Times](#) that the proposal was 'not a radical bill by any stretch of the imagination.'

'We don't need additional studies or working groups to determine whether safe consumption sites are effective,' Wiener asserted.

'We know from decades of experience and numerous peer-reviewed scientific studies that they work.'

Wiener went on to call the veto 'a major setback,' but vowed he and other legislators would continue to press for the state to 'focus on drug use and addiction as the health issues that they are.'

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San Francisco business owner have threatened to stop paying taxes if woke politicians don't clean up litter and open-air drug taking. Pictured a city employee power washing a street



The Castro group said they hope other business associations in different parts of the city will join them to force city officials to finally take action after years of relaxed policies



Homeless people are seen in San Francisco, California on July 19, 2022



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San Francisco business owners threaten to stop paying taxes if woke politicians don't clean up litter and open-air drug taking No Lodging Zone sign to stop homeless tent camps in the Castro neighborhood



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'These people need to get help,' the business association's co-president Dave Karraker told The San Francisco Chronicle.

Meanwhile, city workers were filmed cleaning the streets with a power washer last week after the Merchants Association's letter to California lawmakers went viral.

The city of San Francisco has been under fire for the last two years thanks to a wake of sweeping bail reforms introduced by ousted DA Chesa Boudin.

