

Dean Preston Weekly Office Update
Week of 2/4/2021

Have an idea or want to schedule a meeting between your caucus/committee and Dean's office? Write either PrestonStaff@sfgov.org or lexvonklark@gmail.com with details, mention you're with DSA, and we'll find a time!

Public Bike Share

On Tuesday, Dean lodged a formal request for a Budget and Legislative Analyst report on what it would take for San Francisco to establish its own bikeshare program. We need to meet the rise in demand for green transportation in our city — and part of that is through a municipal bikeshare program to complement public transit and advancing public ownership of vital city services. Currently a company called Bay Wheels, owned and operated by Lyft, has what amounts to contract exclusivity over dockless and docked electric bicycles in The City. The monopoly of this for-profit company ultimately harms San Franciscans by restricting local control over environmental regulations, pricing and equity. For example, the San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency, which oversees portions of the program, had no real power to stop Bay Wheels from raising its prices in March 2020. A municipal bikeshare program would allow oversight and control to serve transit, environmental and equity goals, not prioritized by large for-profit companies that currently own the network of bikes and bike stations across the City.

City Sues Schools to Reopen, UESF Says Teachers Need Vaccines

On Wednesday, Mayor London Breed and City Attorney Dennis Herrera announced their plans to sue the SF Board of Education and SFUSD to force them to reopen schools. This is a direct attack on teachers and their union, United Educators of San Francisco, by trying to force them back into an incredibly dangerous work environment without adequate protection or compensation. UESF announced Friday that teachers would only return to classrooms while in the state's red reopening tier if given vaccines - without vaccines, they would not return to in-person teaching until the orange reopening tier is reached. Supervisor Preston has denounced the Mayor's announcement as divisive and counterproductive, and stands firmly with the working teachers of San Francisco as they fight to have their voice heard in the workplace.

SIP FEMA Retroactive Reimbursement

The Federal Emergency Management Agency confirmed on Wednesday that San Francisco will be 100% reimbursed for the cost of shelter-in-place hotels, retroactive to January of 2020. This is essentially a \$10 million+ stimulus payment to SF, and means there's absolutely no financial reason that San Francisco cannot expand the number of SIP hotels and move more people from the street to safe shelter. Now, the Mayor & HSH need to reverse their arbitrary deadline for hotel eligibility that a homeless person must have been in the system as of 4/2020 to

qualify. This will needlessly leave out many unhoused folks who should now be housed, including those who became homeless after April. We have the money thanks to this new federal announcement, and we need to expand our successful SIP hotels program to house as many people as possible without delay.