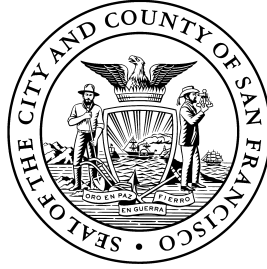


City and County
of San Francisco



Board of Supervisors
District 6

MATT DORSEY

麥德誠

NEWS RELEASE

With overdose report today, San Francisco surpasses 1,800 deaths from drug ODs since January 2020

Supervisor Matt Dorsey says public health calamity demands that S.F. ‘incentivize recovery, disrupt open-air drug scenes, and hold street-level drug dealers criminally accountable’

SAN FRANCISCO (Oct. 17, 2022) — San Francisco’s Office of the Chief Medical Examiner today released its monthly [Report on Accidental Overdose Deaths](#), which found that 55 people lost their lives to drug overdoses for the month of September 2022. The monthly total brings to 1,817 the number of San Franciscans who have perished due to drug overdoses since January 2020 — close to twice the 1,052-death citywide total [for COVID-19](#) during the same time frame.

“The gravity of the ongoing public health calamity we face demands that we reject the failed status quo, and make real progress on strategies to incentivize recovery, disrupt open-air drug scenes, and hold street-level drug dealers criminally accountable,” said Supervisor Matt Dorsey. “No one is served by tired ‘drug warrior’ rhetoric that draws false equivalencies between yesterday’s draconian marijuana sentencing and today’s potentially lethal opioids like fentanyl, which last month killed nearly three-quarters of the San Franciscans we lost to drug overdoses. We don’t need a war on anything. We need sustained public policies and programs, which are citywide, well coordinated, and based on successful approaches in other cities in the U.S., Canada and Europe that are showing us where real progress is possible.”

Dorsey last month introduced “[San Francisco Recovers](#),” a detailed roadmap toward such a comprehensive citywide strategy. Co-sponsored by Supervisors Rafael Mandelman and

Catherine Stefani, the resolution offers an approach that endeavors to address fatal drug overdoses, open-air drug scenes, brazen street-level drug dealing, and associated harms in the following respects:

- By incentivizing and better supporting those seeking recovery from substance-use disorders (SUDs);
- By abating street-level drug dealing, open-air drug scenes, and associated harms and public nuisances; and
- By requesting more than two-dozen city departments and commissions to report to the Board of Supervisors as specified to identify existing resources, needed resources, current policies and practices, and barriers to progress.

The San Francisco Recovers resolution introduces a strategic scoping exercise with 21 city departments and six city commissions, which will organize proposed and existing programs into five categories. Owing to various factors, these will be prioritized into near-term, medium-term or long-term implementations:

1. Public health objectives and programs
2. Criminal justice objectives and programs
3. “Right to Recovery” programs
4. “Sober New Deal” programs
5. Enhanced transparency objectives and programs

The resolution also designates settlement dollars secured from San Francisco City Attorney David Chiu’s opioid litigation to be used as seed funding for San Francisco Recovers programs, enabling the city to better coordinate and maximize the value of current city expenditures.

###

For immediate release: Oct. 17, 2022

Contact:

BRYAN DAHL

Bryan.Dahl@sfgov.org

+ 1 (650) 465-4358