



# “The Gavin Newsom I Know Has the Courage to Make Change.”

I have been working to help homeless San Franciscans, and those who suffer from drug and alcohol addition, for nearly 20 years.

It is clear to me that we need fundamental change.

What we are doing just isn't working. And it certainly isn't compassionate or progressive. There is nothing progressive

## PABLO STEWART

*Homeless services expert.*

about subsidizing a person's drug and alcohol abuse. There is nothing progressive about giving money to people for the means they are using to kill themselves – that is by drug and alcohol overdose.

Last year alone, 169 homeless people died in San Francisco. There have been more than 1,500 deaths of

homeless San Franciscans over the last decade.

Many of these deaths are directly attributable to our cash-based system of care. It is that simple. If you give addicts money – they will spend some of that money on drugs or alcohol or both. And some of them will die – and the money we give them will be partially responsible.

No one is going to be able to come in

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and make this go away overnight. But I think Supervisor Gavin Newsom's proposals, and his leadership as mayor, would start to move this process forward.

Gavin Newsom truly understands the depths of these problems. That's why he has earned my respect, and my support, for mayor.



Sometimes it is easy to get discouraged in my line of work.

But meeting Gavin Newsom, and seeing someone with real compassion and the courage it takes to make real change, has inspired me.

I am inspired because we can make a difference. The supportive care that Gavin is fighting to fund will make a difference. Rebuilding our system of mental health care, proposals Gavin supports, will make a difference. Gavin's plans to create high wage jobs and low cost housing will make a difference.

If we stop making excuses, and start making real change, we can save hundreds of lives and help thousands more start on the road to recovery.

Gavin Newsom's Care Not Cash, as important as it is, was just the beginning. I know that when Care Not Cash is implemented we will help save lives. We are fighting in the courts to implement Care Not Cash, and we believe it will become law early next year.

Every other major county in California, and nearly every other big city in America, already has a law similar to Care Not Cash. There is

wide agreement that it is better to provide real care than just cash.

But Gavin is going beyond Care Not Cash. He is fighting for a coordinated approach to mental health and drug treatment. He will expand drug and alcohol treatment. And will create the supportive housing for homeless people seeking treatment.

Gavin Newsom is the mayor who can make it happen.

Change is difficult. But in this case, change is necessary. And that's why Gavin Newsom is my choice for mayor.

*Dr. Pablo Stewart is an expert in the treatment of drug and alcohol addiction.*

