



Good afternoon Leadership Board,

My name is Ruby Rodriguez, and I am the Hope & Justice Organizer at St. Mary's Center. I am here today alongside Sheila Gay, Council of Elders Secretary and a past graduate of St. Mary's Center's Leadership Academy, to make a critical call to action.

We urge the Continuum of Care Leadership Board to schedule meetings with your own Alameda County Supervisors—to fully dedicate Measure W funds to ending homelessness. Measure W was approved by voters to fund real solutions: housing, supportive services, and prevention programs that help our most vulnerable community members achieve stability. However, we are seeing a dangerous precedent set in Fremont—where punitive measures like encampment sweeps, fines, and the criminalization of unhoused people are being prioritized over real solutions.

We have provided additional information in our Measure W FAQ and Talking Points document, which you can access here: <https://stmaryscenter.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/02/SMC-Measure-W-Talking-Points-FAQ-Edited-2.19.25.pdf>. Thanks to Abode and BOSS for permission to use their logos. Send me an email if you want yours there too.

Thank you for your time and leadership in ensuring that our homelessness response system prioritizes housing, dignity, and justice over criminalization. We look forward to your action on this urgent issue.

Respectfully,
Ruby Rodriguez & Sheila Gay
St. Mary's Center