

City and County of  
San Francisco



Board of Supervisors,  
President

AARON PESKIN  
佩斯金市參事

For Immediate Release  
May 23, 2023

**\*\*\*Board President Aaron Peskin Statement in Response to Question Time\*\*\***

"I very much welcome the Mayor's statements about greater collaboration with the Board of Supervisors – and we are going to take her up on that offer on a daily basis until the drug supermarkets are closed and all of our city is safe and clean. We will keep working until we stand up an emergency response to what everyone acknowledges is street crisis with a real plan to shut down the open-air drug dealing in 90 days or less.

The attack on a young person in the Plaza today when a violent protester threw a brick is only another tragic example of how we are losing control of our public spaces. If we can't guarantee everyone's safety when the Mayor and her security team are present – we have lost control of our public realm. And that is our shared mission: to regain control of all of our public spaces, so that they are safe and clean for everyone always. We simply can't defend this status quo and we must continue to demand change.

There are big problems facing San Francisco, but we have the resources *right now* to close down the open-air drug supermarkets. And I am asking her to focus on this issue first with greater clarity, urgency, and coordination. Personally, I am open to her ideas about creating a space to care for drug users, even requiring that people in immediate danger use that care with the right safeguards. But it makes no sense to me to start with drug users when you have not shut down the drug dealing – the blatant open-air drug dealing – in the shadow of our City Hall.

The sad truth is the city is not organized, and we are not collaborating with all of the outside agencies the way we should. This is not rocket science – this is basic good governance. We need to get every agency in the same room, at the same time, and coordinate their efforts while holding them, and ourselves, accountable for results.

So, I will be working with the Mayor and her staff to see if she will agree to this basic step – which was the first step she took in the face of the Covid-19 crisis, a crisis she and the city managed with focused collaboration and great courage.

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Today we need the courage to admit to ourselves that how we are approaching the Fentanyl crisis is not working – and we need to work together to make every neighborhood safe and clean.

I also would like to let the Mayor know our next Question Time will be on this topic – and every Question Time will be on this topic – until we get this job done.”

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