

SAN FRANCISCO HUMAN SERVICES NETWORK

CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE Board of Supervisors, November 2010 Election

The following questionnaire focuses on issues related to health, human services and community-based nonprofit organizations. The sponsor of this questionnaire is the San Francisco Human Services Network (HSN). **Candidates were told to limit responses for each question to 100 words.** To ensure fairness, HSN truncated any answers longer than 100 words.

HSN distributed this questionnaire to all fifteen candidates running for Supervisor in District 6. As of Friday, September 17, eight candidates have responded. Contact information and website links for candidates that did not respond are available on the city website at:

http://www.sfgov2.org/ftp/uploadedfiles/elections/candidates/NOV2010_QualifiedCandidates2.pdf.

District 6: **Responded:** h. brown, Dean Clark, Matt Drake, Glendon "Anna Conda" Hyde, James Keys, Jim Meko, Theresa Sparks, Debra Walker
No response: Matthew D. Ashe, George Davis, Jane Kim, Nate Payne, Robert Raeburn, George Vazhappally, Elaine Zamora

(A) Contact Information

Name: h. brown
Mailing address: 44 McAllister #415 SF, CA 94102
Email address: h@ludd.net
Phone: 415-621-4103
Website: <http://www.pottalktv.org/>

Name: James S. Keys
Mailing address: P.O. Box 421434 SF CA. 94142-1434
Email address: james@jameskeysdistrict6.com
Phone: 415-894-2130
Website: <http://jameskeysdistrict6.com/>

Name: Dean Clark
Mailing address: 345 Fulton St. #22 SF, CA
Email address: clark_dean@sbcglobal.net
Phone: 415-240-2433
Website: <http://www.deanmichaelclark.com>

Name: Jim Meko
Mailing address: 366 Tenth Street SF, CA 94103
Email address: d6meko@comcast.net
Phone: 415-624-4309
Website: <http://www.mekounites.com>

Name: Matt Drake
Mailing address: 855 Folsom Street #909 SF, CA 94107
Email address: drakeforsupervisor@gmail.com
Phone: 415-385-1301
Website: <http://www.drakeforsupervisor.com/>

Name: Theresa Sparks
Mailing address: 725 Van Ness Ave, #302, SF 94102
Email address: theresasparks@aol.com
Phone: 415-776-2577
Website: <http://www.sparksfor6.com/>

Name: Glendon "Anna Conda" Hyde
Mailing address: 4 Jennifer Place SF, CA 94107
Email address: annaconda@annaconda2010.com
Phone: 415-200-7065
Website: <http://www.annaconda2010.com/>

Name: Debra Walker
Mailing address: 540 Alabama St. #217 SF, CA 94110
Email address: votedebrawalker@gmail.com
Phone: 415-644-8683
Website: <http://www.votedebrawalker.com/>

(B) San Francisco Community

(1) In your opinion, what are the top three issues facing the City & County of San Francisco that you will prioritize as a Supervisor?

Brown (D6): A supervisor has very limited powers. The greatest is the ability to join with 3 other supes to place issues on the ballot. Since the number one problem in my district is security in the streets and since the only way to address that is to require the SFPD to use single officer foot patrols, I'd put Mike Hennessey's idea on the ballot. That's making the Top Cop office an elected position. My second move in D-6 would be to open every closed park in the district. With bolt biters if necessary. Angela Alioto did it to park bathrooms 25 (*Per questionnaire rules, HSN truncated this response at 100 words.*)

Clark (D6): The three Priorities are health care, social programs, and excessive spending.

Drake (D6): 1. Improving our economy. We need to help local businesses and encourage companies to hire San Franciscans. This will increase the city's tax base, so we can afford to pay for the programs we need. 2. Good government. City government needs to spend its money wisely. We have so many important needs in San Francisco that we cannot afford to waste money on inefficient or ineffective programs. 3. Quality of Life. Our streets should be safe and clean for everyone.

Hyde (D6): Housing, Safe Injection Sites, Creation of Co Op Grocery for the Tenderloin with elder food delivery

Keys (D6): Housing- I want to continue the work in this district that has prioritized the construction of affordable housing and the protection of our existing rental housing stock, especially the SRO hotels. Health/ Human Services- I want to continue the work in this district that has prioritized the funding of services for those most in need in our district, especially for community-based service providers that the City has partnered with to ensure culturally competent, community-based services. Pedestrian Safety/ Livable Streets- Good walking conditions are the backbone of every community's transportation system and one of the most important elements of livable communities.

Meko (D6): My top priority is to work on getting our budget in order and removing set asides that result in unfair, inequitable cuts to our public health services. My second priority is to help encourage new small businesses to start up in San Francisco so that we can get more folks employed. Finally, I will be a knowledgeable and fair advocate for land use, zoning, and planning issues. No other candidate offers the big picture land use experience gained from hosting literally hundreds of community-driven planning meetings as Chair of the Western SoMa Task Force.

Sparks (D6): To stimulate the economy and create more jobs. To correct the structural imbalance of our City's budget. To address public safety needs of all people who live, work or visit San Francisco.

Walker (D6): Land use and Development. District 6 is ground zero for development in this city and we must ensure that as the district grows and changes, we protect our local small business, provide truly affordable housing and provide actual community benefits like parks, bike lanes, and bus service, and create quality jobs for San Franciscans who need them most. Public Safety. Affordable housing and Tenants issues.

(2) What are the most important steps we need to take to improve the public health of our City?

Brown (D6): Medication should be free. I almost died a year and a half back from a chemical pneumonia I got on the construction site of our building. SFGH gladly ran tests (which they charged off to Medicare) but I didn't have the \$11 for the meds and almost died (I begged on the internet and someone gave me the prescribed medication).

Clark (D6): As a member of Healthy San Francisco, I can mention we need to address areas of services within the program. There are parts of Healthy San Francisco where as you have to wait 6 months for an appointment because there is not provider available. We have started to build something good for San Franciscans and we should continue to build upon and provide better services to assist our residents and improve the health of our city.

Drake (D6): Ideally, we would have a national health care system for everyone. Healthy San Francisco is a good start, but there are other things we can do to try to improve our public health. We should be vigilant in protecting the living conditions in all housing in San Francisco. Too frequently, our low income housing stock actually sickens its residents. We must be vigilant in ensuring that all housing is habitable. Environmental justice issues can result in disparate impacts on the public health of our low income and more vulnerable populations.

Hyde (D6): Harm Reduction, Combine Resources, Strengthen Healthy San Francisco

Keys (D6): We must provide high-quality, affordable, community-based healthcare for every San Franciscan. When we improve people's physical and mental the quality of life improves for everyone. That's why I'm a big supporter of Healthy San Francisco locally, and efforts to enact single-payer. In San Francisco, we have to stop putting community-based services, like mental health programs, substance-abuse services, AIDS/HIV programs, and homeless services in the back of the line when it comes to funding. These are my priorities, and I will work to protect these services in the budget.

Meko (D6): A major problem is that a large chunk of the budget is tied up by set-asides, which means that when bad times come, we're still setting aside funds for good but non-essential things and we are cutting core services. The Mayor continues to introduce new experiments that take away funds from public health in order to have a reason to schedule press conferences and to smile for the camera. His smiles do not help anyone heal or recover from their health challenges.

Sparks (D6): The City needs to create budgets which address public health by individual category as opposed to “lump sum” amounts contained within individual departmental budgets. By doing so policy-makers can evaluate programs individually and make funding decisions based on need. We need to correct the structural imbalance of our City’s budget to insure public health is prioritized during every budget cycle. We also need to perform annual audits on all city departments and non-profits receiving funding from the City to address waste and eliminate duplicative programs.

Walker (D6): Our first step is to take the existing limited funds that go to health services and make sure that they are prioritized and allocated in the most effective manner possible. In order to accomplish that, as supervisor I will push to have a healthcare needs assessment study conducted. I also believe that we need to fully fund HealthySF and invest in preventative healthcare – saving us 3-fold in the long run. I also will prioritize the funding of our community clinics which serve a vastly underserved population. Lastly, we need to create new forms of revenue to support these critical programs.

(3) What are the most important steps we need to take to improve the fiscal health of our City?

Brown (D6): Confiscate the wealth beyond 100 million of all citizens. That's 30 billion right there. Could your family get by on 100 million?

Clark (D6): The fiscal health of San Francisco is in jeopardy. Excessive spending on things that can wait should be placed on hold. We need to look at salaries and pensions closely. I would support concerns that would assist our community in social programs such as health, food, clothing and housing.

Drake (D6): We need to make city government work for everyone. First, every city department should be regularly audited to ensure that the city’s managers are spending money efficiently. We have too many critical needs to spend money inefficiently. Second, we need to encourage job growth to increase the city’s tax revenue. Third, we should make city government more efficient.

Hyde (D6): Safe Injection Sites, focusing on Harm Reduction, and Housing will open up millions of dollars in wasted revenue that is needed for infrastructure. They are the keys to a healthier economy and city.

Keys (D6): San Franciscans deserve and expect high quality services. I strongly believe that, in order to continue providing them, we need additional long-term, progressive revenue streams. That’s why I support the hotel tax and the real estate transfer tax on November’s ballot.

Meko (D6): We need to toss out 1978’s State Proposition 13. It has put a chokehold on our ability to increase revenues. However, San Francisco has a much more limited menu of options to increase revenues. People who are dying cannot wait for Proposition 13 to be reformed by the State of California, and this is why I support passing San Francisco’s Proposition B. We have relied on issuing bonds for a long time, but borrowing becomes more and more expensive as our credit rating suffers from the weight of unsustainable pensions and retiree healthcare benefits (\$4 billion there alone).

Sparks (D6): Create more jobs to stimulate the economy and generate more taxes. Eliminate the regressive payroll tax structure and create a net receipts tax. Create a “living budget” with a minimum of quarterly reviews and re-prioritization as opposed to only during “budget season” in June/July.

Walker (D6): We need to find new dependable sources of revenue. That’s why I’m supporting the Hotel Fairness Initiative (Proposition J) as well as Prop N – the transfer tax for properties that are sold for over 5 million dollars. Together, these measures can bring in over 70 million dollars to our struggling General Fund. Also, I would like to take a look at ways to reform our business tax structure – finding a solution that both increases economic activity as well as revenue. I would also look at ways to streamline efficiencies of services, much like the health assessment survey I discussed above.

(4) Do you support or oppose the following November ballot measures? (Optional: You may add an explanation of your position, limited to 100 words per ballot measure.)

a. Prop E: Election Day Voter Registration

Support: Brown (D6), Drake (D6), Hyde (D6), Keys (D6), Meko (D6), Walker (D6)

Oppose: Clark (D6), Sparks (D6)

b. Prop I: Saturday Voting

Support: Drake (D6), Hyde (D6), Meko (D6), Sparks (D6), Walker (D6)

Oppose: Brown (D6), Clark (D6)

c. Prop J: Setting Hotel Tax Clarification and Temporary Increase

Support: Brown (D6), Clark (D6), Hyde (D6), Keys (D6), Meko (D6), Walker (D6)

Oppose: Drake (D6), Sparks (D6)

d. Prop K: Hotel Tax Clarification and Temporary Definitions

Support: Drake (D6), Hyde (D6)

Oppose: Brown (D6), Clark (D6), Keys (D6), Meko (D6), Sparks (D6), Walker (D6)

e. Prop L: Sitting or Lying on Sidewalks

Support: Drake (D6), Sparks (D6)

Oppose: Brown (D6), Clark (D6), Hyde (D6), Keys (D6), Meko (D6), Walker (D6)

f. Prop M: Community Policing and Foot Patrols

Support: Brown (D6), Clark (D6), Drake (D6), Hyde (D6), Keys (D6), Meko (D6), Walker (D6)

Oppose: Sparks (D6)

g. Prop N: Real Property Transfer Tax

Support: Brown (D6), Clark (D6), Drake (D6), Hyde (D6), Keys (D6), Meko (D6), Sparks (D6), Walker (D6)

h. Prop 22: Prohibits the State from Taking Local Funds

Support: Brown (D6), Clark (D6), Drake (D6), Hyde (D6), Meko (D6), Sparks (D6), Walker (D6)

i. Prop 24: Repeals Business Tax Breaks

Support: Brown (D6), Clark (D6), Drake (D6), Meko (D6), Walker (D6)

Oppose: Sparks (D6)

j. Prop 25: Pass the State Budget by a Majority Vote

Support: Brown (D6), Clark (D6), Drake (D6), Hyde (D6), Keys (D6), Meko (D6), Sparks (D6), Walker (D6)

k. Prop 26: Requires Two- Thirds Vote for State to Increase Fees

Support: Clark (D6), Hyde (D6), Sparks (D6)

Oppose: Brown (D6), Drake (D6), Keys (D6), Meko (D6), Walker (D6)

(C) The Health and Human Services Nonprofit Sector

(1) In what ways have you shown leadership in supporting the nonprofit health and human services sector and low income, disadvantaged populations? Please identify any nonprofits where you worked, served on the Board of Directors, or played an active role.

Brown (D6): I have a Master's in Special Education and worked with behaviorally disturbed adolescents for almost 50 years. People who sit on Boards of Directors are largely rubber stamp skills.

Clark (D6): I worked as a public school teacher in the bay view hunters point and as well Potrero Hill. Many of the students I worked with were in need of health and human services and would assist students in getting to the right agency. I also worked with the YMCA in Excelsior giving classes to youth in computer applications.

Drake (D6): I serve on the Board of Directors of Clementina Cares and of SOMA Forward, local nonprofits in the central SOMA neighborhood. I have also served with the Yerba Buena Community Benefits District since before it was formally approved, I am now on its Finance Committee.

Hyde (D6): I have worked closely with both the AIDS Housing Alliance and the Community Housing Partnership as a fundraiser and spokesperson. I have been an advocate for Gay rights since 1984 and served as secretary for a time in NYC in the 90's. I have been a Community Organizer around rapid gentrification and it's displacement and was the first candidate to come out vocally against Sit?Lie.

Keys (D6): I worked as a legislative intern for 3-years for Supervisor Daly on constituent issues, community engagement, and some legislation. I have served as the Chair of the SF Mental Health Board, advocating for additional community-based mental health services. While at the Senior Action Network, I organized seniors to advocate for affordable housing and universal healthcare. Additionally, I have the real life experience as a person who has taken advantage of community-based substance abuse services and services for people living with AIDS/HIV. I have lived below the poverty-level and believe that I can honestly represent the poorest people in our district.

Meko (D6): I have not been a part of the non-profit sector but have provided strong leadership in the field of community-based planning. The Western SoMa Task Force, which I've chaired for more than five years, has developed a stabilization policy that would maintain the historic balance between affordable vs. market rate housing as well as the traditional jobs/housing balance. Our work on social heritage districts has become a model for the city at large.

Sparks (D6): My work advocating for non-discrimination and disenfranchised populations in San Francisco is well known, in the LGBT community and the transgender community. I have also served on the Board of the Horizons Foundation providing over a million dollars annually to disadvantaged communities. I have served as a Human Rights Commissioner, Police Commissioner or Human Right Director for the City and County of San Francisco since 2001. I have also worked with New Leaf, TLC, TARC and others over the last few years.

Walker (D6): As a Building Inspection Commissioner, I have strongly advocated for DBI's Housing and Code Enforcement Programs that focus on increasing habitability of our lowest cost housing. The SRO Collaborative and Code Enforcement Outreach Program are aimed at providing healthy, and safe housing. I have sat on numerous nonprofit boards concentrating on health, community arts, development equality and tenant protections, including; Appointed Member, Arts Task Force Board Member, Queer Cultural Center Board Member, Mobilization Against AIDS International Board Member, San Francisco Planning + Urban Research Association (SPUR)

(2) Do you have any specific recommendations to improve the programs or services provided or funded by the City & County of San Francisco for low-income and homeless populations?

Brown (D6): Security is the main problem in the street and criminals are developed through poor parenting and poor guardianship. I propose a free parking pass for any reasonable adult willing to mentor an At-Risk SFUSD student. I've been proposing this for around twenty years now.

Clark (D6): Yes with healthy San Francisco, we need to obtain more medical assistance for mental health and other specialty areas. We need to work on obtain more food to provide for our community to sustain the level of meals that are served and raise the bar to give more healthy choices instead of sodium based meals which can lead to health problems later down the road.

Drake (D6): We need to ensure that new SRO buildings come with wraparound services, including substance abuse and mental health services. This model has been shown to be more effective than simply providing housing. While more expensive, it is cost efficient in the long run.

Hyde (D6): It is twice as costly for tax payers to jail, hospitalize, feed, ect; as it is to house a person. The Shelter systems is not a place to handle mentally ill populations. My plan is to lobby that the CPMC center adds permanent housing for mentally ill peoples as part of it's displacement housing requirement. We must strengthen SHS and Healthy San Francisco to create better coverage and save on resources. This should include child care as part of coverage for families with children. Safe Injection Sites will make streets safer, and reduce over doses, Hep C and Aids infections, saving millions each year.

Keys (D6): In San Francisco, we know how to solve homelessness with affordable housing that includes on-site services to help residents with issues they struggle with in their lives. This supportive housing model works. Unfortunately, despite the

best efforts of our current Supervisor, the political will is not there to get this done for all who need it. I will build on the work of Supervisor Daly and will continue to prioritize affordable housing, for those most in need. Also I believe that the wealthiest corporations in this City are not paying their fair share. That's why I support new progressive taxation.

Meko (D6): I am particularly concerned about the most vulnerable people, seniors and LGBTQ youth, in the system. They require safe space.

Sparks (D6): We need to increase available funds for these programs and services by focusing on increasing job opportunities in the City and encouraging start-ups and mature companies to locate in San Francisco. We need to create more housing opportunities through new bond measures, co-housing concepts and cooperative housing. It is also imperative that we continually audit City departments and non-profits receiving money from the City to eliminate wasteful practices and duplicative services and programs.

Walker (D6): Again, new, stable revenue plays a critical role here. We must prioritize low-income and homeless services because if we don't, we will have to pay much more down the line for emergency care. I would like to work with local clinics and health care providers to work to cut down on waitlist times so that we can better serve this population. I am supporting the proposed alcohol tax at the Board of Supervisors, because I believe in the value of substance abuse treatment programs as well as mental health services.

(3) The San Francisco Housing Element has identified the need for some 13,000 very low to moderate income homes, including: 3200 units of affordable accessible housing, 1500 units of affordable senior housing, and 5600 units of affordable multi-bedroom family housing. Given the declining level of federal and state financing for affordable housing development, how would you finance this level of affordable housing?

Brown (D6): Cancel all SF Hope contracts. Re-hab the housing projects instead of replacing them with housing for the rich. Dump TNDC, THC, John Stewart and Mercy Housing and lower the minimum income to live in the projects they now control to \$8,000 per annum.

Clark (D6): People need a place to live; I will support funding to support affordable housing. As a supervisor I will work hard with the community to find alternative funding for these programs and watch and vote accordingly to excessive spending that is introduced by the other city supervisors for items other than social services. We need to address the concerns of our community and provide housing for those seniors and disabled individuals who need it.

Drake (D6): We have a desperate need for more housing in San Francisco. It is increasingly unlikely that the federal or state government will be building more housing, and the city cannot afford to create this much housing. Therefore, we have no choice but to turn to the private sector. We need make it economically efficient for the private sector to build more housing that is available to lower income people.

Hyde (D6): I would work to get back the housing from the AAU in the Nob Hill Tenderloin area. Secondly the city is only looking to District 6 and 10 to house people. The city should look to other neighborhoods to help with this burden and with some good planning we can attach health care to the facilities that can benefit the entire community

Keys (D6): In Supervisor Chris Daly's office, I assisted with efforts to deliver resources for affordable housing through changes to the City's inclusionary housing legislation and through supplemental appropriations. I was supportive of his efforts to find an ongoing funding source, and after taking office, commit to reintroduce his affordable housing charter amendment at my first meeting as a Supervisor.

Meko (D6): We have an abundance of market rate housing. We should seriously consider amending the Inclusionary Housing Ordinance to require a deeper mix of affordable units, some for very low income people.

Sparks (D6): Stimulate the economy and create more jobs, affordable housing bonds for all populations (targeting seniors, families and working class), correct the structural imbalance of the City's budget and approach local corporations and businesses to create more private/public partnerships. This issue requires a multi-year and sustainable effort by policy-makers in the City to resolve.

Walker (D6): We must establish a permanent source for affordable housing development, including a new affordable housing bond. We also need to take a strong look at some "smart" growth initiatives like SB 375 and advocate that if San Francisco is

to bear the lion's share of the Region's Housing Needs Assessment/Allocation, then we should be receiving a commensurate amount of funding.

(4) As Supervisor, through what mechanisms would you seek input from nonprofits when considering legislation that would affect agencies and the clients that they serve?

Brown (D6): The usual. You have to have administer programs that have observable and measureable activities. I got an A in research and you'd be surprised at the things you can measure.

Clark (D6): I would like to hear from all nonprofits that would be affected by a piece of legislation. I would not single out one nonprofit over the other. Everyone has a voice including the nonprofits. I would love to hear from agencies on how to better assist them and considerations for pending and creating legislation.

Drake (D6): I would have an open door to everyone. I will want to hear input from everyone, including the nonprofits who provide the city with necessary services and are probably among the most knowledgeable people about how to solve the city's problems.

Hyde (D6): I believe in an open door policy because it is every side that creates a whole picture. I admit that I would be interested more in pursuing ideas from the the Not For Profit Sector because it is my experience that they are actually a part of the solution with very little money to work with. They are also the best providers of dignity building experiences that are possibly the most important part of returning someone to health and social responsibility.

Keys (D6): Like Supervisor Daly, I will use my Supervisor office as an organizing center. While I will take formal meetings with representative from HSN, I am more comfortable working side by side on our issues of mutual concern.

Meko (D6): One promise I've been making is "I'll listen." As an activist in SoMa, I've worked with a lot of the local non-profits and would definitely talk and listen to them before drafting or voting on bills that affect them.

Sparks (D6): I won't just seek inputs from non-profits, they will be actually partners in the decision-making process. I firmly believe that legislation that directly affects non-profit's ability to deliver services has to be part of the equation. All non-profits need to be included as individual line items in the budget process from its inception as opposed for fighting for funding at the last minute at the BOS.

Walker (D6): Community Development Centers are effective conduits for communication between legislators and communities. Holding forums at these agencies creates effective lines of communication between those doing the work on the ground and those creating policy. Holding regular meetings with the leaders of the local non-profits also helps prepare supervisors on what the community is saying, what they need, and what can be done about it. Coming from the community side myself – I am committed to working with these groups to create legislation.

(5) Do you feel that nonprofits receive adequate funding to meet the needs of the city and its vulnerable populations, and to ensure the health and sustainability of their organizations? If not, how would you address the need for more funding?

Brown (D6): No, you don't have half the money you need if you were just trying to match the Canadian system. And again, my solution is to dissolve the large estates and fund what you need from the products of the Gap sweat shops in Asia for a start.

Clark (D6): I do not feel as though nonprofits receive adequate funding to meet the needs of the city. As a community we need to find other ways to find additional funding for our non profits. I believe there is excessive spending occurring at City Hall where we could cut back and provide more funding for the community nonprofits. As I stated in many forums and comments on questionnaires when it comes to serving the community through social programs I am in. I will need community support and assistance on finding ways to discover more funding.

Drake (D6): Every department always needs more funding. As noted in question 3 of the first section above, we need to increase our revenue coming in to the city to provide additional funding for services. We must bring in new revenue instead of fighting for the same amount of funding.

Hyde (D6): No. Funding must come from those who have money. I am for removing the 25 increase on Corporately owned land and using that money to fund these organizations.

Keys (D6): No. In addition to new funding streams for the City, I am not afraid to take on the sacred cows in the City budget – in particular the Police and Fire Departments. I do not believe that there is currently equity in our budget, and I will continue the work of the current Supervisor to address it.

Meko (D6): No, they don't. I think it is a shame that New Leaf will be closing while Mayor Newsom hires folks at \$120,000+ per year salaries for jobs that could probably pay much less and achieve just as much for the people of San Francisco – freeing up funds for vital city services.

Sparks (D6): Given the current state of the city budget, I would have to say no. However, I think we also need to review the budget process, consider how to resolve the issue of duplicative services and ensure that non-profits are receiving the resources they need to fulfill their particular mission.

Walker (D6): No, nonprofits do not receive adequate funding to meet the needs of the city and its citizens, particularly those that are vulnerable and generally underserved. I will prioritize forwarding a housing bond and reworking our housing funding, as described above. Nonprofits are challenged to offer competitive wages to their employees while meeting the needs of their clients. We must find creative solutions to increase revenue so that necessary services do not suffer.

(6) As Supervisor, what would you do to reform the City's current budget process of cuts and add-backs?

Brown (D6): The supes should take back the purse strings and write the budget themselves. Reject very single mayoral budget and write their own with input from the public. Now the process revolves around back room deals with the likes of the Shorensteins.

Clark (D6): Top considerations should be made for social service programs. We need to maintain health and human services for our community and SF residents. At the moment depending on what is being cut and what is being added back would be dependent on reform.

Drake (D6): Obviously, the Mayor has the most control over the City's budget process and it falls to Supervisors to fight for add-backs for the necessary programs. I would encourage our next Mayor, whoever he or she is, to work ahead-of-time with the Supervisors before submitting the new budget to the Board. The process of forcing the Supervisors to fight for add-backs is inefficient and divisive.

Hyde (D6): The need for our city to start looking at sustainable ways to stay within budget are crucial. We should not be operating at deficit and it is my belief that the waste reduction is one of the ways to strengthen our economy. The very idea of pitting Not For Profits against one another for funding is a way of crippling them. They must get preference in budget consideration since they provide the basic services that would otherwise cost millions to the city.

Keys (D6): At the very least, we need to make the Mayor of San Francisco submit the balanced budget to the Board of Supervisors by May 1st to allow the Board more time to deliberate the budget. In terms of add-backs, I believe that health and human services should not be at the back of the line. I do like the idea of a Charter baseline for these services and would like to see multi-year appropriations.

Meko (D6): I think the big problem is that Gavin Newsom and several Supervisors are more interested in scoring points on each other than they are in working together to make the best of our current bad situation. I'll do all I can to deescalate the current tension. If the Mayor is elected Lt. Governor, and I end up as part of the Board selecting a new Mayor, I'll be looking for someone that has or can gain the respect of the Board and who will respect us and work together with us in these tough times.

Sparks (D6): It needs to be an ongoing annual process between the Mayors Budget office and the BOS Budget committee. As opposed to fighting at the end of every budget cycle for programs and add-backs, the process needs to be a non-partisan effort that is ongoing year-round

Walker (D6): Greater transparency in the budget process is key. We must ensure greater stability in the budget process for nonprofits and allow the community to offer more input earlier in the budget process. I will always work with community stakeholders when making decisions regarding cuts and priority spending.

(7) Would you incorporate decision-making about nonprofit cost-of-living-adjustments (COLA) and cost-of-doing-business (CODB) increases into the budget process? (See the appendix for more information.) Do you support annual CODB increases for nonprofit contractors? Should those increases reflect actual increases in the cost of operations?

Brown (D6): We make money, you make money. I was unfortunate enough to retire in the first period in which there was no growth and so not only did my social security not increase, I'm enduring a 50% rise in rent and a 20% cut in food stamps. As a card carrying senior I now have less money and less health care. Solution? Take out the top estates and re-distribute the wealth.

Clark (D6): I have a difficult time seeing that these increases should reflect the cost of operations. I appreciate the efforts of our non profits in the city and can understand the demand for services are on the rise. I would like to see the actual increases be in sync with cost of operations, but realistically I do not see that occurring

Drake (D6): It is easy to support annual COLA and CODB increases in theory. Given the city's budget situation, though, if we increased funding for nonprofits without increasing revenue, we would have to cut other necessary services in the city budget.

Hyde (D6): I am unable to answer this question at this time at this time but plan on having an answer when we meet.

Keys (D6): As someone who has worked in the non-profit sector, I do feel that non-profit workers are generally under-valued. I support COLA's and CODB increases for non-profits and would like to see these programmed in multi-year appropriations.

Meko (D6): I think that this is the right thing to do but it doesn't look like we have enough money to do this. I'll work on raising revenue and finding less necessary things to cut, but most of the less necessary things left in the budget are still there because they have powerful defenders.

Sparks (D6): I would support them, after annual audits are accomplished to determine efficiencies and continued service needs.

Walker (D6): I do support annual COLA and CODB increases for nonprofit contractors – if our city is relying on nonprofits to provide critical services, we should be funding them so that service is consistent. As supervisor, I would incorporate communities to ensure that their voice was being heard when budget considerations are being made.

(8) Should employees working on nonprofit city contracts earn wage rates that are comparable to civil service employees in similar job classifications? If so, what specific steps would you take to advance wage parity?

Brown (D6): Absolutely! Take out the top estates and re-distribute the wealth to achieve this.

Clark (D6): I would agree that nonprofit city contracts earn wage rates should be comparable to civil service jobs, however we are in an economic recession. Individuals need resources and those who serve in the non profit sector clearly understand this. In tough economic times it will be difficult to obtain this goal but would entertain the assistance of those in the non profit sector helping me find a way to obtain wage parity.

Drake (D6): As with the COLA and CODB increases discussed above, the city's ongoing budget problems make this unlikely in practice. I do support this in theory, but the city's budget reality make it unlikely.

Hyde (D6): We must ensure that funding for organizations that are creating solutions for the Homeless populations, and the people doing the work, should be duly compensated. There needs to be reform from the top down and monies used for superfluous high paid government jobs. Also through saving due to Harm Reduction we will start to see monies that can also be ear marked for fair wages. The idea is to create change and saving throughout the system that allows growth and prosperity on every level.

Keys (D6): Yes. I think that we need to continue to prioritize community-based organizations, because of their unique ability to provide the most culturally competent services. This means increasing the appropriations for these groups every budget cycle.

Meko (D6): Yes. It's the right thing to do. Unfortunately, most city workers have taken pay cuts in the current crisis and I don't think it's a good time to ask for higher pay for anyone, even if it's the fair thing to do.

Sparks (D6): Much like City contractors providing other types of City good and services, employees of non-profits should be paid, at a minimum, a livable wage and have benefits comparable to other organizations in their particular industry or service classification. It would be useful if the non-profits could be represented by a collective bargaining unit thus giving them a much better bargaining position when discussing wages and benefits. I would certainly advocate for such a concept.

Walker (D6): Yes, Nonprofits must maintain comparable wage rates to civil service employees. I would make this part of the discussion in budget planning as well as during contract negotiations.

(9) Many nonprofits urge San Francisco to undertake a longterm planning process that would guide the implementation of health and human services over the next 5 to 10 years, analyze and prioritize community needs and resources, ensure the sustainability of our system of care, and develop a plan that transcends the cyclical nature of the political process and individual department policies. What recommendations would you make to guide this planning process?

Brown (D6): Just implement the 'Continuum of Care' for God's sake. Didn't you listen to Sister Bernie Galvin for 20 years? To pay for it ... take out the top estates and re-distribute the wealth to achieve this.

Clark (D6): A span of 5 – 10 years out is a long time. I hope this planning process gets revisited yearly. The current economic times are volatile and we don't really know the direction we are heading in this city other than additional spending and increased taxes and fee permits to obtain this excessive spending. The basic needs of individuals should be reached; clothing, food, housing, and I will add health care to this list of basic needs. At this time I feel our health and human services should come first.

Drake (D6): This makes sense. Just as we have started instituting long term plans for the city's physical infrastructure, we should also have long term plans for health and human services. I would recommend that long term budgets be adopted. This would enable the city's nonprofit partners to plan for the future, instead of planning on fighting for their share of the budget every year.

Hyde (D6): It is to our best interest to combine health care systems and stream line the process saving resources and care while being able ensure more stability. We must take this time to strengthen Healthy San Francisco by combining it with SHS and providing health care to all of San Francisco. With Healthy San Francisco providing for the uninsured there has been a drain on resources and combining the two systems would help gain a more stabilized footing financially. Elder care need to include on sight food delivery.

Keys (D6): In a significant long-term planning process, I would want to ensure that the voices and input from those receiving the health and human services are central to guiding the process.

Meko (D6): It sounds nice, but the problem is that projected expenditures depend on projected revenues, and we've seen in the last few years just how inaccurate revenue projections can be. I think we should get our priorities straight. Is putting money into a fund to buy parkland when we can't afford enough workers to keep the parks we already have open a good idea if that money could keep a health center open? When set-asides are imposed we end up spending for well-meaning things while cutting vital services.

Sparks (D6): I think it is imperative that the City undertake a long-term financial plan, much like is done in the private sector, with annual and quarterly updates that reflect changing circumstances and priorities. This process should be directed by the Controller's office, not the individual bodies of government. The legislative and executive branches of government would then collectively develop annual operating and capital budgets that fall within the context of the long-term financial plan. Somehow, we need to minimize the political implications of the current budgeting process.

Walker (D6): I support conscientious long-term planning for health and human services to promote consistency and to support our nonprofit services, no matter the political climate. That was one reason why I supported Prop A on the November 2009 ballot that requires a 2-year budget cycle, 5 year financial planning as well setting the process for increasing our rainy day reserve funding. I am sensitive to the fact that such planning must be flexible, however, to meet the changing needs of our City.