

SF NIC (SAN FRANCISCO NO INJUNCTIONS COALITION)

In 2007, San Francisco City Attorney Dennis Herrera started obtaining 7 gang injunctions in 4 neighborhoods (Bayview-Hunters Point, Mission, Visitacion Valley, and Western Addition). The community courageously fought the injunctions and ignited Oakland residents to organize against injunctions across the bay. However, the injunctions were still imposed in San Francisco.

In 2018, the San Francisco No Injunctions Coalition (SF NIC) formed and put the injunctions back into the public eye. SF NIC's strong and successful campaign garnered grassroots support as well as the attention of the media and decision makers. At the beginning of our campaign, there were 139 people named on the injunctions. *Six months later, SF NIC's campaign led to 86 people being removed from the injunctions.* Despite this substantial success, 53 people remain on the injunctions today and their families continue to be impacted.



JOIN OUR FIGHT TO END THE INJUNCTIONS

1. Sign up for our email list and follow us on Facebook. Website is coming soon!
2. Help build our base by getting more local businesses, organizations, and community leaders to sign our endorsement petition.
3. Going to an event? Bring our flyers and talk to people – or invite us to table.
4. Got tech skills? We can put them to use!
5. Other ideas or skills? Let us know!

GANG INJUNCTIONS ARE WRONG FOR SAN FRANCISCO

- Ø **Every single person ever named on the injunctions is a black or brown male.** This is a total of 150 black and brown San Franciscans and their families. Even though SFPD has ample documentation about several white gangs, the City Attorney has never targeted them.
- Ø **"Gang Policing" criminalizes and stigmatizes entire communities.** Research shows that injunctions increase police harassment and surveillance (particularly for youth of color). They can give police even more reasons to detain and harass all members of a community. They have the power to prevent family members from associating with one another; at least seven sets of brothers (and many cousins) were named in San Francisco's injunctions. Additionally, not all people named in the injunctions actually are – or ever were – gang members.
- Ø **Injunctions fuel gentrification and displacement.** San Francisco is living through a crisis of gentrification and displacement. Residents are increasingly unable to afford housing in the city and Black San Franciscans now make up less than 6% of the city's population. Gang injunctions have been implemented in some of the San Francisco neighborhoods hit hardest by gentrification. It is difficult to see this as a coincidence.
- Ø **Injunctions are a failed experiment.** Other CA jurisdictions, some much less progressive than SF, have already moved away from this draconian, racist policy. Oakland ended its injunctions in 2015. In 2017, a court battle led both Stanislaus County to suspend its injunctions and Ventura County to halt enforcement against 368 people. LA purged thousands on its own, and then in March a federal court found major constitutional violations and forced LA to stop enforcing almost all its remaining injunctions. Shortly afterward, Long Beach stopped enforcing

injunctions against 850 people and Orange County released 200 people from their injunctions. San Diego is now reviewing their decades-old injunctions and looking to remove hundreds.

- Ø **Gang injunctions just keep losing in the Courts...** including the 2013 Ninth Circuit opinion in Vasquez v. Rackauckas, the December 2017 appellate court decision in People v. Sanchez, and now the 2018 District Court decision in Youth Justice Coalition v. City of Los Angeles. Civil rights violations abound.
- Ø **We should be investing in programs that WORK, not criminalization!** Studies show that investing in services and programs that keep people out of courts, jails, and prisons are more effective at improving public safety and promoting community well-being than investing in law enforcement. *Let's invest in education, stable housing, after-school activities, youth development, violence prevention, job training/placement, and drug treatment.*

What are gang injunctions?

Gang injunctions are court-issued restraining orders prohibiting alleged “gang members” from participating in specified activities within a “safety zone.” Some of the prohibited activities are already illegal – such as selling drugs, vandalizing, trespassing, and possessing weapons. Other restrictions involve everyday activities, such as congregating in groups, associating with particular people, being out after a designated time, or wearing certain colors. Nationwide, gang injunctions are almost exclusively imposed against communities of color, typically ensnaring multiple people within a family. They are often described as modern day Black Codes.

Because injunctions are civil court actions, there is a lower legal standard than in the criminal court system, and people are not afforded the same due process rights as under criminal law. While criminal laws are restricted to “criminal” behavior, injunctions can target noncriminal conduct and can therefore lead to punishment in criminal court for violating a civil order.

What is the penalty for violating an injunction?

Violating the injunctions can result in a misdemeanor conviction with up to six months in county jail. Additionally, if someone on the injunctions is convicted of a felony, the criminal court can add a “gang sentencing enhancement” that results in an additional 2 to 15 years (or even 25 years to life) in prison.

Can a person get removed from the injunction?

There is an opt-out process, but it is difficult to navigate and subject to Herrera’s approval. Additionally, since injunctions are tools of the civil court system, people must hire their own attorneys to challenge the filing of the injunction or to defend against a civil contempt proceeding.

Due to pressure from the community and civil rights organizations, Herrera agreed in 2008 to conduct reviews of the injunctions every three years. Although he did remove a few people in the first few years, he’s provided no evidence that he did full reviews until we forced him to this year. Additionally, if he had done the reviews as agreed, 13 deceased people would have been removed during that time – *including Mario Woods, who was shot by police in his own neighborhood.*

SF NIC

Connect with us!

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