

**Harvey Milk Democratic Club**  
**September General Membership Meeting**  
**Women's Building**  
**3543 18th St #8, San Francisco, CA 94110**  
**Audre Lorde Room**  
**September 19, 2017**

**Meeting called to order 7:11 pm.**

**1st Agenda Item:** Co- President introduce themselves to the new members to the Club.

**2nd Agenda Item:** Queer/Trans Immigrants Rights with three panelists.

Janetta Johnson is a trans healer, space decolonizer, and executive director at TGIJP. Janetta works with all trans women with an emphasis on those who were incarcerated. Janetta says that we have never had such an influx of Latina-Trans women to come for their services. Latina Trans Women are terrified, especially now that there is constant talk about DACA rescinded. There is a challenge to help this demographic because of language barriers. As of right now, they are looking to hire someone from the community to work around the language barriers. They are doing everything they can to provide a safe space. The Latino community right now is the most vulnerable population, in particular the Trans Latina women.

Janetta notes that since the 2016 election, people in power provided a lot more support than in the past. She is hopeful that a lot more people can donate money and volunteer time to help vulnerable population so that people can have a sense of safety.

Janetta's call to action: She knows that we've been doing a lot, but now we have to do a little bit more. We have to put in a stronger effort than before. It is our duty, especially if someone is undocumented, to find creative solutions to help them out. Do everything we can so we can create a better sense of safety.

Cynthia Fong is a community organizer and first generation, born in Hong Kong. She has done work for housing rights and has seen how landlords use legal-status issues against their tenants.

A lot of us experience multiple layers of oppression. What is challenging at this moment is the new level of intensity for each layer. She also says that it is very easy to fall back on the “good immigrant vs bad immigrant” narrative. However, there are 11 million folks who will not benefit from DACA. There is a lot of “good criminal vs. bad criminal”, “good homeless vs. bad homeless” narratives, and it is time that we correct these narratives. Homes are a right, and it is time that we find alternative solutions to incarceration.

Lidia Salazar is a queer community organizer and co-director of CUAV, a wellness organization. A lot of the participants are undocumented. It is a battle to help the undocumented and also have one of her parents undocumented. She leads campaigns like Due Process For All and the effort to shutdown the future jail. There is a lot of people power.

There is an over criminalization of our communities, especially black and Latinx communities. A very common scenario is that both a victim and an abuser get arrested with the same charge. Survivors need the support to speak and share their experiences.

Member Lito Sandoval says that he is happy to see that panelists are multicultural because the immigration issue is usually assigned only to the Latino community.

Janetta points out that Cis White women organized for the Women’s March. Janetta says that in that fashion, we need to organize at that level. She also points out that there is a level of urgency around DACA issues.

Cynthia Fong says that it is critical that everyone in the room research their own histories and draw from historical organizing tactics and apply them to this time.

Lidia says that CUAV works in coalitions so there is a much more extensive reach.

Janetta points out that there are a lot directors in the room, but that even in that role, one should always push for more. And that even just showing up and volunteering and being a completely different demographic than the people you help gives a sense of safety. In other words,

someone that doesn't look like me is out here for me. It is our duty to create safe spaces and fight!

**3rd Item Agenda:** Antonio Villaraigosa, Candidate for California Governor

Kimberly introduces Villaraigosa. She says that is critical that we have these conversation early on because where California goes, the country goes.

Villaraigosa says that for generations in this country, immigration has always been a "problem." Although his schedule is very tight, he wanted to be here today because he has been a progressive all his life.

Antonio Villaraigosa notes that in his political career, he authored, chaired and co-chaired issues that were unpopular back in the 90s. California is a great state, but it is a state that is leaving people behind. The leader of this state has to acknowledge that although we have 6th largest economy in the world, it is also the same state with the highest poverty in the country.

The next

leader has to grow the middle class and not just the state's economy.

### **Questions and Answers:**

1) Jordan Davis: *Your stance on single payer? Would you sign it into law ?*

Villaraigosa says he supports single payer. He believes in the concept but cannot sign on to single payer because there will be 2-3 million people that will be affected by it.

2) *What would you do to end homeless in the state? What about green jobs?*

We really need to bring together a cross section of experts to look how A.I. and technology impact the poor because poor people will be the ones to feel that hit the strongest.

We have to educate children in the state. Educating and training for the jobs of the future is critical.

On the green job sector. LA will be completely free of coal by 2025. We focused on green jobs, we went to community colleges and started training for green jobs. The next governor should lead the state into the green jobs.

1st of all, the first way to address homelessness is to help those that are chronically homeless. As governor, I would look for a housing trust fund to leverage tax credit. Tax credit will leverage money. Density bonuses, transportation ..etc One way to build more housing is by incentivizing. I do not have all the answers, but I will look for the experts on the subject.

3) Gomez Arteaga: *What's your #1 vision that will be your legacy?*

Villaraigosa says he doesn't think about legacy and never had. He helped to bring LA together if he wants to be remembered for something. He wants to be a uniter especially in this time when there is a divider in the White House.

Gomez asked for a more concrete answer.

Villaraigosa pointed to the issues of poverty and training children for the future economy.

4) Tab Buckner asked: *Can we put you on record to repeal the Ellis Act and Costa Hawkins?*

Villaraigosa answered if it came down to the legislator to kill these acts, he would go further and tell developers and builders that there is a crisis. He would bring everybody together, not just to sign it but to push it. People have nowhere to go. He will bring all the stakeholders together. If you are the leader of the state, and you really want something, and you know it's broken, you'll get it.

5) *How would you support labor unions?*

Villaraigosa said he believes in collective bargaining. He has worked with unions his entire life, and believes we need to support collective bargaining in order to build a middle class. He understands the role of unions.

6) Brad Chapin: *What are your views on condemnation on ANTIFA and the appropriation of the free speech movement?*

Villaraigosa said he only knows one politician who has said ANTIFA was comparable to the Nazis and KKK. He doesn't believe that they are in anyway comparable. He believes college campuses should be space for free speech.

7) Kevin Bard: *Do you support the jungle primary system?*

Villaraigosa said he supports it. He doesn't know if it will hurt or help his run for governor. Whether people are progressive, liberal, centrist, conservative or right wing, people are looking for someone who tells the truth. He hopes that people are looking for someone who is straight

with them, a truth teller even when it's unpopular. He hopes that he will have some traction. He wants to come back in 9 months or so to see his consistency.

Villaraigosa's final statement: He wants to know everyone's story. He wants to know about the people that we are working on behalf. Please visit [Antonioforcalifornia.com](http://Antonioforcalifornia.com). He wants us to submit those stories because they inspire him and tell him what California needs.

#### **4th Agenda Item:** PAC update

Last week, PAC meeting had a DACA panel.

**1st Motion:** A Motion was made to support more people having a pathway to citizenship.

**Motion passes unanimously.**

There will be a Homeless working group that will develop questions for the D8 candidate debate and possible projects that the Club can look into.

Call to action: The Club wants to develop more visibility in the District 8, especially around homelessness.

#### **5th Agenda Item:** Internal Update

The Club has 377 members. The tech team is working on developing the website and having it up and running. There is a working group to have amendments to the bylaws. William and Kevin will work on developing printed agendas. How many CDP delegates we have been awarded? This is still unknown.

#### **6th Agenda Item:** New Business/Announcements

Club member Brenden Schucart talked about Rafael Mandelman, a passionate advocate for affordable housing and ending homeless encampment. He invited us to his campaign's mobilizations on Saturdays.

Carolina will be dedicating a good hour for the next meeting on tasers. We need a huge turnout.

This Saturday is a Chiapas fundraiser for earthquake relief put together with Gomez at 3-5 at the Galleria De La Raza. They are asking for donations. Tom Temprano will be the DJ. They are asking people to bring tents. If not, please bring donations.

OCEIA is hosting a DACA renewal workshop at Mission High School.

**2nd Motion:** To endorse an anti violent-speech march in Berkeley on Saturday: Made by Brad Chapin and seconded by Kevin Bard.

**Motion passes unanimously.**

**3rd Motion:** To oppose how UC Berkeley is handling the appropriating of free speech. Made by Brad Chapin and seconded by Tab Buckner.

**Motion passes unanimously.**

**4th Motion:** Adele FC motions that the Club sends a letter to the Mayor of Berkeley opposing how he identifies Antifa as a gang. Seconded by Lito Sandoval.

Yes: All

Abstentions: 1

**Motion passes.**

**Meeting is adjourned at 9:15 pm.**