



San Francisco Shop Owners Threaten To Stop Paying Taxes Unless City Tackles Crime, Homelessness

Description

USA: Business owners in San Francisco's Castro district have absolutely had it with the city's inaction over burglaries, vandalism, and violent homeless people camping on the sidewalks in front of storefronts and residences.

As the *American Thinker's* Olivia Murray notes:

San Francisco has an established reputation as a capital for fringe culture and leftism, much of which converges in the enclave of Castro. The first "Drag Queen Story Hour" event ever took place in the Harvey Milk Memorial Branch Library in the neighborhood and was "well received."

Now, under Democrat leadership, the iconically left community is ready to take drastic measures toward radical American patriotism. Three days ago, the San Francisco Chronicle reported:

*For years, business owners in San Francisco's Castro district have complained to city officials that homeless people struggling with mental illness and drug addiction have wreaked havoc on the neighborhood. Now, merchants say the situation has gotten so bad that **they're threatening to possibly stop paying city taxes and fees** [emphasis added].*

The threat arises from a letter drafted and sent to city officials by the Castro Merchants Association on August 8. According to co-president Dave Karraker, if the calls are neglected, the response will be civil disobedience, including refusal to pay taxes.

Karraker said:

If the city can't provide the basic services for them [businesses] to become a successful business, then what are we paying for? You can't have a vibrant, successful business corridor when you have people passed out high on drugs, littering your sidewalk.

No, no, you can't, which is why conservatives suggest *not* incentivizing criminality and drug use, nor electing D.A.s who hail from domestic terrorists and despise law and order like [Chesa Boudin](#).

Needless to say, it's likely the irony is lost upon the residents and proprietors of Castro. The very spirit they oppose in policy — revolutionary freedom from the yoke of taxation and anti-tyrannical government — is the very spirit they're on the verge of embracing.

The leftists in Castro appear to be halfway there. The government exists for one purpose, and that is to secure unalienable rights. One of those rights is property ownership, and between 2019 and 2020, storeowners saw a distinct rise in "burglaries and vandalism", and in Castro, "the merchants association recorded more than 90 incidents totaling over \$170,000 in repair costs since 2020[.]" When the government fails to safeguard our rights, it forfeits its legitimacy and authority to govern.

Karraker added, "Until we see demonstrable change, everything is on the table, including civil disobedience[.]" I can't believe I'm saying this, but I think I actually have something in common with the San Francisco Marxists, and I applaud their initiative.

And as *Silvio Canto Jr.* writes in the *Thinker*:

I spoke with a friend who went to San Francisco, and he couldn't believe the general decay of a once wonderful city. He did not like Los Angeles, either.

So it's great to see that business owners are drawing the line. Put the issue in the laps of the elected officials, and use your taxes as a weapon. After all, you are paying for the police, and it's the political class tying their hands.

Thumbs up for these business owners in Castro.

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