

Episode 13:

Welcome to Gilded Garbage Can, a podcast dedicated to defogging the image that is San Francisco.

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Well, 2020 is upon us – happy New Year, listeners – and as such, people are making resolutions. I'm sure many of you have; I know that I have. What I don't know is if the people who make decisions for the city of San Francisco have, so I thought it might be a good idea to suggest some resolutions that might help them do a better job of running the city.

Now, it's important to make resolutions that are realistic and attainable, but this is San Francisco, so I'm going to throw caution to the wind, and suggest a few that might be a stretch for our intrepid and wise – feel the sarcasm – city team!

- 1. Take a walk around SOMA, especially 6th street, at night. Apply some camphor just under the nose before exploring the area you'll thank me later.
- 2. While in the neighborhood, do some shopping. You can buy many items right off the sidewalk from merchants who acquired their inventory from cars parked around town.
- 3. Ride MUNI any line, but make sure it's at a busy time. Experience the joy of the digital arrival signs that are usually wrong. Envelope yourself in the fragrance that is the back of most buses. Witness drivers who are too afraid to enforce rules.
- 4. After your bus ride, get in the car and drive down any street that has a dedicated bus lane so you too can experience the efficacy of your urban planning. I know you read a book that discussed these transportation marvels, but you failed to understand that they only work in real cities, with good public transit.
- 5. Spend a day walking without looking down and count the number of times you step in human waste.
- 6. Rent a metal detector and search for hypodermic needles go with a friend and see who finds the most it's a fun game!
- 7. Stroll around town and count commercial vacancies, as you recall the old days when storefronts were occupied and merchants could make a living here.
- 8. Go somewhere that offers a view of the outer avenues and count the number of high density housing units you see it'll be a quick and super-short exercise.
- 9. Go to any restaurant that serves avocado toast and take it all in.
- 10. Finally, at election time, read down the list of incumbents running for their Supervisor seat and commit to helping them land new jobs.

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