

Coalition on Prostitution

A Sponsored Project of The San Francisco Women's Building

P.O. Box 210256

San Francisco, CA 94121

(415) 751-1659

Deputy City Attorney
Hijime Tada
1390 Market St., Third Fl.
San Francisco, CA 94102

February 18, 1998

Dear Deputy Attorney Tada,

I am contacting you regarding Schneider vs. City and County of San Francisco; Federal District Court Case No. C-97-2203-MMC. Ms. Schneider is suing the City and County of San Francisco due to the injuries she has suffered as a result of abuse in the process of arrest and incarceration, as well as the violation of her constitutional rights. The treatment she received was unlawful and outrageous.

The Coalition on Prostitution is a Sponsored Project of The Women's Building, providing services to women on the streets through outreach and advocacy. Ms. Schneider has worked with our project extensively for many years, providing health related outreach services to hard-to-reach populations. She is extremely dedicated and her work has been invaluable to women on the streets and to the city. In fact, Ms. Schneider is the only outreach worker who maintains contact with a number of populations. Ms. Schneider regularly attends conferences, trainings and updates in her field. For many years she has spent all her holidays serving food to the poor through Haight Ashbury Food Program. She has participated in community advisory groups, including a recent project designing treatment on demand for women through the Drug Abuse Advisory Board. Ms. Schneider is obviously an asset to the community!

It is clear that Ms. Schneider's ordeal was designed to humiliate her and represents discriminatory and hateful treatment. The perpetrators of this crime must be held accountable and the city must acknowledge these crimes; Ms. Schneider's complaints are the tip of the iceberg of complaints against law enforcement in dealing with women on the streets. We must set a precedent and make it clear that

the city does not support abuse by law enforcement. I urge you to expedite this process by releasing the names of all officers involved.

I urge you to resolve this suit as soon as possible by using the City's financial resources to compensate Ms. Schneider. It is our belief that the City's resources are better spent on settling this matter without further pain and suffering on the part of Ms. Schneider, than they would be by perpetuating legal bureaucracy.

Sincerely,

Carol Leigh
Development Director