# Google Employee Compares San Francisco to 'The Walking Dead' Amidst Social Issues and Tech Dystopia



San Francisco has been compared to the zombie apocalypse world depicted in the TV show "The Walking Dead" by Google employee, Sam Padilla. He made the comparison following a recent visit to the city, documenting his experience on social media platform X. Padilla, originally from Brazil and Colombia and currently residing in Austin, Texas, described his trek from Soma to Hayes Valley as the "sketchiest walk" of his life.

The Bay Area is facing significant challenges, particularly related to homelessness and drug addiction, with last year marking the deadliest year on record for drug-related deaths, largely due to the proliferation of fentanyl. Progressive harm reduction policies have been criticized for potentially exacerbating the crisis.

Padilla compared San Francisco to Calle del Cartucho in Bogotá, Colombia, a notoriously dangerous area known for poverty and drug trafficking. His criticism comes amid various efforts by the city to address its issues. Mayor London Breed has called for aggressive public safety measures, including mandatory drug addiction screenings for approximately 9,000 welfare recipients and enhanced policing powers. These proposals have sparked debate, with some arguing for more ethical approaches.

In another incident, Padilla expressed unease upon seeing a driverless Waymo car, noting the city's tech dystopia ambiance. The self-driving vehicles have faced safety concerns, including a software recall by Waymo following accidents.

Retailers such as American Eagle have also been impacted, with the company announcing the closure of its store at the Westfield San Francisco Centre due to numerous security incidents from May 2020 to May 2023. The mall now has an occupancy rate of just 25%.

San Francisco's complex social issues continue to draw scrutiny and highlight varying perspectives on how best to address the city's crises.