

Supervisor Shamann Walton
Legislative Aide Tracy Gallardo
City Hall
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, Room 244
San Francisco, Ca. 94102-4689

July 9th, 2023

Dear Supervisor Shamann Walton and Legislative Aide Tracy Gallardo,

We oppose the Building Inspection Commission nominations of Raquel Bito and Bianca Neumann due to their lack of support for the community. During the recent city budget process, Commissioners Bito and Neumann minimized and dismissed the importance of the Code Enforcement Outreach Program and SRO Collaboratives to improve tenant housing habitability.

We are in support of Building Inspection Commission Alysabeth Alexander-Tut who supports the needs of tenants who are an important stakeholder in the Department of Building Inspection.

Sincerely,
Causa Justa :: Just Cause
Housing Rights Committee of San Francisco



07/10/2023

SRO Families United Collaborative

Powered by

Chinatown Community development Center
Chinese Progressive Association
Coalition on Homelessness
Dolores Street Community Services
South of Market Community Action Network

Esteemed members of the Rules Committee,

We, the SRO Families United Collaborative write you in opposition to the confirmation of Raquel Bito and Bianca Neumann to the Building Inspection Commission (*BIC*).

The BIC oversees a critical City Department that touches nearly all San Francisco Residents' homes. From flowing water through unleaded pipes, crisp ocean breeze through adequate windows, and the hearth that is modern heating systems. It is often that SRO Hotels and other similar "last option" housing for immigrant and very low-income families, do not have constant adequate flowing water in the shared bathrooms, and may end up choosing between the ocean breeze or a warm room, when there may not be adequate heating and ventilation.

The Collaborative provides Code Enforcement, other direct services, and opportunities to leave the SRO for affordable housing opportunities to SRO families in the City, through partners' offices in SOMA, Tenderloin, Chinatown, the Mission Districts. These services, which primarily include code enforcement, are provided by culturally and linguistically competent peer organizers.

Disinterest in seeing SRO Families:

Raquel Bito and Bianca Neumann rejected or ignored invitations by the Collaborative to visit SROs and SRO families early 2023. Multiple attempts were made to encourage the commissioners to see first-hand how these families lived, and of the critical role the Collaborative plays in the communities served. Failing to visit SROs is a disservice to all the families, seniors, veterans, individuals with disabilities that call a unit in an SRO home.

Disinterest in Listening to SRO Families:

During the June 21st, 2023, BIC hearing, many SRO families attended to voice their plea to retain the Collaborative budget as part of DBI's budget. During this hearing, several commissioners appeared to be distracted and not committing fully to listening to the families' testimonies. This level of disrespect or indifference is unacceptable. As president of the BIC, commissioner Raquel Bito should have reminded her colleagues to refrain from distractions.

The Commission cannot be representative of the People of San Francisco when both these commissioners show no interest in dialoguing with community, show no connection with the City they represent and when both of them remained completely unreachable, uncommunicative and uninterested during the toughest Budget the department has faced in the last 15 years.

Sincerely,

The SRO Families United Collaborative

Supervisor Matt Dorsey
District 6
San Francisco, CA

July 9, 2023

**RE: Qualifications of Angie Sommer, Mayor's Appointee
Building Inspection Commission, Structural Engineer Seat**

Supervisor Dorsey and Members of the Rules Committee,

My name is Angie Sommer, and I am a licensed structural engineer who joined the Building Inspection Commission (BIC) in early 2021. I have been re-nominated by Mayor Breed to continue to serve on the BIC and request your consideration to approve my re-appointment today.

Please accept my apologies for not attending this meeting in person; I am currently nine months pregnant and expecting my second child anytime in the coming weeks. At the time of this meeting, I had a conflicting prenatal appointment. I very much appreciate your understanding.

My engineering background includes a degree in Architectural Engineering from Cal Poly San Luis Obispo followed by 18 years of practicing structural engineering in California and Australia. I am originally from the East Bay and have lived in San Francisco for the last 12 years. As a licensed structural engineer living in San Francisco, I meet the requirement of Seat 3 on the BIC, which shall be "an active, formerly active, or retired structural engineer, architect, or residential builder nominated by the Mayor."

In the last two years, I have learned a lot about the processes and procedures of the Commission, DBI, and our City. I feel that my contributions to the Commission have assisted DBI and the BIC in shedding previous negative public perceptions and moving us forward into an era defined by accountability, transparency, and improved technological resources. In my time on the Commission, I have sought to frame my contributions through the lens of the seat that I occupy and provide thoughtful input on issues pertaining to structural and other technical topics.

In addition, I have made the effort to become involved in the Code Advisory Committee (CAC) as well as the Structural Subcommittee of the CAC, as these groups discuss technical topics that often pertain to my expertise. I have found it helpful to attend these additional meetings to understand the context of the decisions and recommendations that come to the BIC from these groups as well as to foster a stronger link between the BIC and the CAC.

In the coming year, there are multiple initiatives that I wish to be involved with and for which my expertise will be beneficial.

- Perhaps the most pertinent of these is the Nonductile Concrete Retrofit Ordinance that is currently being developed. My expertise as a structural engineer gives me a unique ability to understand the technical aspects of this legislation, and my hope is to use that knowledge to assist the BIC in understanding and, hopefully, ultimately supporting the ordinance that will be developed.
- Another initiative for which I feel that my expertise will be relevant is the office to residential conversion guideline that is currently being developed. With this, I will again seek to provide input based on my expertise as a practicing structural engineer, especially as it relates to seismic concerns that govern so much of structural design in and around San Francisco.
- Finally, I am interested in the current effort to update to the site permit process and improvements to DBI's permitting processes in general. I very much look forward to seeing this effort have a positive impact on the permitting processes in our City and wish to contribute positively in the coming months.

In all my work for the Commission, my foremost goal is to provide rational, thoughtful, and honest input to benefit all stakeholders of the BIC. I wish to cultivate an atmosphere of collaboration and mutual respect among my fellow commissioners, DBI staff, the general public, Board of Supervisors, and the Mayor. I appreciate your consideration today and look forward to being able to continue to serve the City of San Francisco.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "Angie Sommer". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Angie Sommer, SE