



May 5, 2020

Honorable Board of Supervisors
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place
City Hall, Room 244
San Francisco, Ca. 94102-4689

Dear Honorable Board of Supervisors,

I write with great enthusiasm to recommend Deland Chan for a position on the San Francisco Planning Commission. Deland is a 2007 graduate of Stanford University, with a BA in Urban Studies and an MA in Sociology. In December of 2012 she returned to Urban Studies at Stanford as a lecturer, and as the Director for Community Engaged Learning. As the co-director of the Urban Studies Program, I have had the pleasure to work with Deland first as a student, and now as a colleague. In both roles, she has been a tremendous asset not only to our students and the Stanford community, but also to many communities beyond the university. She is a supremely capable urban planner, teacher, and community advocate. She is an ideal candidate for the Planning Commission.

Deland graduated with a BA in Urban Studies and an MA in Sociology, obtaining both degrees concurrently in the space of four years and earning honors in the major and Phi Beta Kappa along the way. Deland continued her urban planning training at Berkeley, where she earned her Master's degree in City Planning in 2009. She then began working as a Senior Planner at the Chinatown Community Development Center (CCDC) in San Francisco, where she was responsible for developing and coordinating the Planning Team's transportation program. She worked closely with the Chinatown community on a number of projects, striving to improve street design, increase pedestrian safety, and minimize the disruption from the construction of the Chinatown subway line.

Given Deland's record as a student and an urban planner, I was delighted to welcome her back to Urban Studies as our first Director of Community Engaged Learning. In this capacity, Deland teaches service-learning classes, and helps students, faculty, and community partners to get the most out of community engaged learning experiences. But Deland's energy, creativity, and dedication to improving the quality of urban life has made the position much more than that. As part of her Sustainable Cities class, for instance, she has created and maintained partnerships with a variety of community organizations and government agencies, including the San Mateo County Health Department, Friends of Caltrain, SamTrans, and Redwood City 2020. In all of these partnerships, Deland gives our students invaluable lessons in urban planning, and also provides real, tangible results that materially benefit the community partner.

Deland thinks globally as well as locally. She developed an ambitious plan to create and teach an international course with a service-learning component, and lead students on a trip overseas so that they could immerse themselves in the rapid urbanization that is happening in the developing world. This was a novel idea, and Deland met the challenges of international collaboration with determination, persistence, and careful preparation. In collaboration with a colleague at Stanford's School of Engineering, Deland developed the International Urbanization Seminar, and forged a

partnership with faculty at Tsinghua University's School of Design so that Stanford students would learn in collaboration with their Chinese counterparts.

In addition to her hard work and persistence, what strikes me most about Deland's work is her dedication to constant improvement. When Deland was preparing to teach her first service-learning course, she enrolled in a ten-week faculty workshop to study the principles and best practices of service learning. In a workshop with a number of more senior colleagues, she became the star student. After teaching the course the first time she was somewhat disappointed with the student evaluations, and made it a goal to improve her results. The second time she taught the class, her quantitative evaluation score rose by 35 percent. When Deland sets a goal, she works hard for it and achieves it.

One of Deland's current goals is to obtain a Ph.D. A few years ago, she was accepted to a non-residential doctoral program in Sustainable Urban Development at the University of Oxford in England. She received a competitive full scholarship from Oxford to fund her studies. Her studies at Oxford have deepened her knowledge of planning and sustainability, and enriched her skills in research and critical thought. Her perspective as a scholar as well as a planner will add significantly to the contributions she will make on the Planning Commission.

Deland has the maturity and judgment to handle the challenges of a governance board position in a major, politically active city such as San Francisco. She has a collegial, collaborative manner that will enable her to work well with colleagues and constituents. She has a deeply rooted dedication to making cities ecologically and socially sustainable. And she has the work ethic and persistence to achieve real change. For all of these reasons, I am confident that Deland would be a superb candidate for the Planning Commission. I give Deland my very highest recommendation; please contact me if I can provide any additional information.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'MKahan', written in a cursive style.

Michael B. Kahan, Ph.D.
Co-Director, Program on Urban Studies
Senior Lecturer, Department of Sociology
mkahan@stanford.edu



Chinatown Community
Development Center
華協中心

1525 Grant Avenue
San Francisco, CA 94133
TEL 415.984.1450
FAX 415.362.7992
TTY 415.984.9910
www.chinatowncdc.org

May 6, 2020
Rules Committee
San Francisco Board of Supervisors
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett, City Hall
San Francisco, CA 94102

Re: Deland Chan, Planning Commission Appointment

To Supervisors Hillary Ronen, Catherine Stefani, and Gordon Mar:

As a 43 year old organization committed to equitable development, Chinatown Community Development Center (CCDC) is in strong support for the appointment of Deland Chan to serve on the San Francisco Planning Commission. As a dedicated urban planner and academic, Ms. Chan will bring to the Commission both the unique experience and understanding in land use and transportation, urban sustainability, and participatory planning to fulfill San Francisco's long-range planning goals, policies and programs.

Over the last decade, Ms. Chan has demonstrated a broad range of experience around issues related to land use and transportation planning with an equity perspective. She brings extensive experience leading community engaged design in communities of color. Having served as a senior planner at Chinatown Community Development Center, she is familiar with San Francisco's city planning process, including project management experience with Central Subway construction impacts, Chinatown Broadway Street Design and the Chinatown Pedestrian Safety Plan. She also initiated CCDC's Urban Institute program that educates high school and college level students on community planning in the Chinatown context. In the last few years, she's continued to stay connected as a mentor in community youth leadership/ advocacy programs such as CCDC's Campaign Academy.

We feel strongly about Ms. Chan's ability to serve on San Francisco's Planning Commission, assessing the impact of proposed citywide projects on neighborhoods and to weigh and understand the diverse perspectives of policymakers, developers, businesses, and community stakeholders. We know that she is committed to the public process of planning in upholding the San Francisco General Plan. As a Commissioner, she will bring unique insight to managing growth for San Francisco in a way that is livable, inclusive, sustainable, and economically vital at both the neighborhood and citywide level.

Sincerely,

Malcolm Yeung
Executive Director

From: [Diana Pang](#)
To: [Young, Victor \(BOS\)](#)
Cc: [Phil Chin](#)
Subject: Fwd: Planning Commission Appointment
Date: Thursday, May 7, 2020 4:46:17 PM

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Hi Victor,

I'd like to submit Phil Chin's letter of recommendation in support Deland Chan for the Planning Commission. Can you include this for public record for the May 11 Rules Committee meeting?

Mr. Chin is a civic leader and mentor of Deland's. He sent the following correspondence to all BOS. I understand you're the Rules Committee Clerk.

My thanks,
Diana

May 05, 2020

Honorable Board of Supervisors
Board of Supervisors
City and County of San Francisco
City Hall
San Francisco, CA 94102

Dear Honorable Board of Supervisors,

I am writing to you regarding a vacancy on the San Francisco Planning Commission. The decisions made regarding how land is used in San Francisco has tremendous importance for the people of the City and County. For far too long, market forces has determined how land is used to the detriment of the people who live in the city, especially to peoples and communities of color and those who are marginalized.

In order to have a voice within the Planning Commission that is a consistent and strong advocate for low-income peoples of color and other marginalized residents, I am proposing that you appoint Ms. Deland Chan.

I have known Ms. Chan for over a dozen years and have worked with her extensively during that time, initially when she became a planner with Chinatown CDC, and subsequently, when she became an educator and planning professional. You will see from her resume that she has

had an extensive academic history and has studied and taught in the arena of planning for the better part of the last decade. She has extensive knowledge of the planning process and will receive her doctorate degree in a couple of years.

She has always looked at how to use the planning process to benefit working people and to benefit the environment. She has never forgotten her past and how she grew up in a public housing project in New York City, and has used that experience to plan and advocate for low-income people. She has always strived to build bridges and has designed and implemented an entire planning educational program built on cultural exchange and sharing of ideas. She will be a strong voice for housing and transit equity in this city that so urgently needs such a voice!

I urge that you will seriously consider Ms. Deland Chan and appoint her as the next Planning Commissioner appointed by the Board of Supervisors.

By way of reference, I have been a 20-plus years member of the board of the Chinatown Community Development Center (CCDC) and its initial Chairman, a co-founder of the Chinatown Transportation Research and Improvement Project (TRIP), and current co-chair of the Committee for Better Parks and Recreation in Chinatown (CBPRC). Professionally, I have been the former Director of the Parking Authority as well as the former Deputy General Manager of the Municipal Railway of San Francisco for over a decade. Thank you for your consideration!

Phil Chin

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Phil Chin** [REDACTED]
Date: Wed, May 6, 2020 at 12:51 PM
Subject: Fwd: Planning Commission Appointment
[REDACTED] Deland Chan [REDACTED]

[Done. This is the last email to the supes. They all received similar letters...](#)

pc

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Phil Chin** [REDACTED]
Date: Wed, May 6, 2020 at 12:46 PM
Subject: Planning Commission Appointment
To: <Ahsha.Safai@sfgov.org>, <Suhagey.Sandoval@sfgov.org>

Phil Chin
601 Van Ness Avenue, Apt. # 601
San Francisco, CA 94102

May 05, 2020

Honorable Ahsha Safai
Board of Supervisors
City and County of San Francisco
City Hall
San Francisco, CA 94102

Dear Supervisor Safai,

I am writing to you regarding a vacancy on the San Francisco Planning Commission. The decisions made regarding how land is used in San Francisco has tremendous importance for the people of the City and County. For far too long, market forces has determined how land is used to the detriment of the people who live in the city, especially to peoples and communities of color and those who are marginalized.

In order to have a voice within the Planning Commission that is a consistent and strong advocate for low-income peoples of color and other marginalized residents, I am proposing that you appoint Ms. Deland Chan.

I have known Ms. Chan for over a dozen years and have worked with her extensively during that time, initially when she became a planner with Chinatown CDC, and subsequently, when she became an educator and planning professional. You will see from her resume that she has had an extensive academic history and has studied and taught in the arena of planning for the better part of the last decade. She has extensive knowledge of the planning process and will receive her doctorate degree in a couple of years.

She has always looked at how to use the planning process to benefit working people and to benefit the environment. She has never forgotten her past and how she grew up in a public housing project in New York City, and has used that experience to plan and advocate for low-income people. She has always strived to build bridges and has designed and implemented an entire planning educational program built on cultural exchange and sharing of ideas. She will be a strong voice for housing and transit equity in this city that so urgently needs such a voice!

I urge that you will seriously consider Ms. Deland Chan and appoint her as the next Planning Commissioner appointed by the Board of Supervisors.

By way of reference, I have been a 20-plus years member of the board of the Chinatown Community Development Center (CCDC) and its initial Chairman, a co-founder of the Chinatown Transportation Research and Improvement Project (TRIP), and current co-chair of the Committee for Better Parks and Recreation in Chinatown (CBPRC). Professionally, I have been the former Director of the Parking Authority as well as the former Deputy General Manager of the Municipal Railway of San Francisco for over a decade. Thank you for your consideration!

Phil Chin

--

diana grace pang | 彭詠恩

:: email
:: phone
:: pronou

