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April 29, 2025

San Francisco Board of Supervisors

The Honorable Rafael Mandelman, Board President
The Honorable Connie Chan, Supervisor, District 1
The Honorable Stephen Sherrill, Supervisor, District 2
The Honorable Danny Sauter, Supervisor, District 3
The Honorable Joel Engardio, Supervisor, District 4
The Honorable, Bilal Mahmood, Supervisor, District 5

The Honorable Matt Dorsey, Supervisor, District 6
The Honorable Myrna Melgar, Supervisor, District 7
The Honorable Jackie Fielder, Supervisor, District 9
The Honorable Shamann Walton, Supervisor, District 10
The Honorable, Chyanne Chen, Supervisor, District 11

1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place

San Francisco, CA 94102

Re: **Testimony on Housing Element Rezoning Public Notices**
(Agenda Item 7, File #241210)

Dear President Mandelman and Members of the Board of Supervisors,

I urge the Board of Supervisors to unanimously pass the proposed Ordinance in Board File #241210 proposed by Supervisor Chan to amend the Planning Code to provide robust public outreach through notices regarding all “*Housing Element Rezoning*.”

48Hills reported online on April 22 that Supervisors Myrna Melgar, Matt Dorsey, and Bilal Mahmood voted “No” on the first Reading of this Ordinance. As if residents Districts 3, 5, and 7 don’t deserve receiving public notices?

48Hills [reported](#) two supervisors, Matt Dorsey and Myrna Melgar, warned that notification would cause undue alarm in any impacted neighborhood. *48Hills* quoted Dorsey as having said the notices would be “*incredibly alarming*,” while Melgar was quoted as having said the City would be “*needlessly alarming*” people.

Of San Francisco’s 809,000 population, I venture that ***not*** getting public notice about zoning changes would be **much more** incredibly alarming than getting notices. Getting these notices is not “*needless*,” as Melgar wrongly assumes.

As it is, each District averages a population of approximately 73,544, give or take. The three Supervisors opposed to the public notice provisions represent approximately 220,633 constituents. How dare these three Supervisors essentially disenfranchise over 220,000 San Franciscans?

All 11 Supervisors must surely be aware that California’s Brown Act states:

“The people of this State do not yield their sovereignty to the agencies which serve them. The people, in delegating authority, do not give their public servants the right to decide what is good for the people to know and what is not good for them to know. The people insist on remaining informed so that they may retain control over the instruments they have created.”

Americans have a ***right to know*** what our government and elected representatives ***are doing on our behalf***.

As America’s Founding Fathers recognized, a true democracy depends on an informed citizenry. Accountability is only an empty promise without transparency. Lack of public notice about “*Housing Element Rezoning*” is the opposite of transparency, and is undemocratic.

After all, the people have a right to know what our local government is doing in our names, and on our behalf. We did ***not*** cede that right to these three City Supervisors.

Unanimously pass this Resolution today on final reading.

Respectfully submitted,

April 29, 2025

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Columnist

Westside Observer Newspaper

cc: Daniel Lurie, Mayor of San Francisco
Angela Calvillo, Clerk of the Board
Alisa Somera, Deputy Director, Legislative Services