

**Evans, Derek**

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**From:** Patrick Monette-Shaw <pmonette-shaw@earthlink.net>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 12, 2017 5:11 PM  
**To:** Safai, Ahsha (BOS); Fewer, Sandra (BOS); Yee, Norman (BOS)  
**Cc:** Cohen, Malia (BOS); Evans, Derek  
**Subject:** Testimony to Rules Committee: Strong Support for Supervisor Malia Cohen's Campaign Finance Disclosure for Retirement Board, Health Services Board and Retiree Health Care Trust Fund Board Elections

**Patrick Monette-Shaw**

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September 12, 2017

Rules Committee  
San Francisco Board of Supervisors  
The Honorable Ahsha Safai, Chair, Rules Committee  
The Honorable Sandra Lee Fewer, Member  
The Honorable Norman Yee, Member  
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place  
San Francisco, CA 94102

Re: **Support for Supervisor**

**Cohen's Legislation on Campaign Finance Disclosure**

Dear Chair Safai and Rules Committee Members,

I strongly support Supervisor Malia Cohen's proposed Ordinance at agenda item #3 on the Rules Committee's September 13 agenda to require campaign finance disclosure from candidates and their third-party backers of spending in San Francisco Employees' Retirement System Board, Health Service Board, and Retiree Health Care Trust Fund Board elections. This legislation is long overdue. Many heartfelt kudos to Supervisor Cohen for having introduced this legislation!

Leading up to the SFERS Board election last December and January, then-candidate for election "Al" Casciato reportedly noted during an endorsement meeting of the Veteran's Police Officer Association (VPOA) that one organization was donating \$80,000 to his election campaign, and in another venue Casciato reportedly asserted that another organization was going to donate an additional \$100,000.

Candidates for any of these three Boards should not be spending \$180,000 — or more — to in effect buy themselves seats on any of these three Boards, without full campaign finance disclosure requirements. City employees and retirees are not for sale to those who raise the most money to influence the outcome of elections to these three Boards, and we deserve to know who is funding

and contributing to each candidate.

As it turned out, Casciato did not advertise that he was a retired Police Captain, and the 85% of “miscellaneous” (i.e., non-public safety) current and retired City employees had no forewarning that public safety — police and firefighters — were aiming to take control of all three of the elected seats to SFERS Board of Trustees. Now, the miscellaneous members and beneficiaries have no representation on SFERS’ Board and no seat at the table, effectively disenfranchised from representation on the Board.

I urge the Rules Committee to support Supervisor Cohen’s proposed legislation, with the Rules Committee submitting the strongest possibly-worded recommendation to the full Board of Supervisors to pass this Ordinance.

Respectfully submitted,

**Patrick Monette-Shaw**

*Columnist*

*Westside Observer* Newspaper

cc: Supervisor Malia Cohen, District 10  
Derek Evans, Rules Committee Clerk