

### **3/24/2025 - Remarks by Honest Charley Bodkin - Board of Supervisors Rules Committee**

Good morning, Supervisors Chair Walton, Vice Chair Sherrill, and President Mandelman, I'm honored to return to discuss this important appointment to the Sunshine Ordinance Task Force. I want to share with you my plan, should I have the honor of being appointed to the Task Force.

But first, I'd like to quickly address something a supporter of one of the other applicants accused me of. This person essentially said that unlike their candidate, I don't use words to resolve conflicts. He was alluding to an SFGate article about me that was published last year. The author of the article in question misrepresented an already deceptively edited YouTube video about me, produced not by a trained journalist, but by a multimillionaire tech founder who told me that his intent with the video was to quote unquote "bully" me. The article's author did not reach out to me for comment, and got the facts wrong. The truth is, that almost 5 years ago, I was attacked by an intoxicated bartender, and I defended myself, fearing for my life. This bar is known for its staff getting intoxicated on the job, and I can provide a copy of an online social media post from another customer who stated that he too was attacked by the bar's owner, who was intoxicated, over a civil disagreement regarding teacher pay.

Now, moving on: I would love to discuss with you improvements to the Sunshine Ordinance, starting with improving the efficiency of the Task Force's average number of days to hold hearings on complaints, which is currently at 333 days according to the latest 2024 annual report. Legally, the Task Force is only obligated to hold a hearing if the complainant specifically requests one, but I believe we could administratively provide much faster resolutions for the vast majority of complaints, saving both the Task Force, the complainant's, and department staff's time. This could really help speed up the process, particularly since it usually takes more than two scheduled hearings (2.2) before complaints are resolved.

I also believe in expanded training of city staff, but that will largely be for not if we don't also undertake modernization efforts. The Task Force isn't and shouldn't just be seen purely as a cop, policing departments' compliance, and while yes, that's part of the job, the Task Force should also work together in partnership with departments, the Board of Supervisors, and the Mayor's office to find creative ways to implement citywide goals, like that of Mayor Daniel Lurie's, when he announced during his inauguration this January that "our first step in streamlining our crisis response is to mandate that all departments coordinate to build and maintain a single public-facing Street Conditions Dashboard," the Mayor went on to say "you can't build strong solutions without good data."

The Task Force ought to work with the Controller's office for example, given their new Prop C power to "*require periodic or special reports of departmental operations, contracts, revenues, and expenditures*" to standardize reporting requirements across city contracts and departments, and publish that data and information in formats that are easily consumed by the public. The Task Force needs to and should be having hearings on ways it can work together with specific offices to facilitate data management and access by the public.

I believe I would make a good appointee for this position given not just that I was the only applicant here today that attended the last Task Force meeting, which—not to scare anyone off—went 7 hours long until 11pm. I also believe I have the right experience with public records through many years working in and with the media at the Los Angeles Times and at my startup where we worked with numerous media publications including Vox Media and CalMatters, and now at my blog, TheCityAndCounty.com.

Should I have the honor of being selected for this appointment, I won't let you down. Thank you.

**March 21, 2025**

**Rules Committee**

City and County of San Francisco

Dear Members of the Rules Committee,

I'm submitting the following official statement to be read at the Regular Meeting on Monday, March 24, 2025:

Unfortunately, due to short notice and my responsibilities as the sole provider for a young family with children, I am unable to rearrange my travel schedule to attend the hearing in person. However, I remain deeply committed to serving on the Sunshine Ordinance Task Force and would gladly engage virtually or in any other available manner.

San Francisco residents have repeatedly demonstrated their willingness to support city programs and initiatives by approving new bonds and taxes, generously entrusting the government with their hard-earned wages. It is crucial that we honor this trust by spending taxpayer money ethically, responsibly, and transparently. When citizens file a Sunshine request, we should have nothing to hide. All relevant documents and information should be readily accessible, timely, and clear.

Throughout my career as a product manager at Intuit, I've gained extensive experience translating complex regulatory and legal language into clear, understandable information for everyday people. Additionally, I successfully collaborated with the City of Berkeley to approve a pioneering software-based micro-bond program, enabling local residents to directly invest in municipal bonds typically reserved for large institutions, thereby promoting civic engagement and financial transparency.

I deeply care about San Francisco and feel a personal responsibility to contribute positively to our city, which is why I am eager to join the Sunshine Ordinance Task Force. I am committed to ensuring our government remains accountable, trusted, and transparent for all residents—especially as I raise my family here and invest in the city's future.

Thank you very much for your consideration.

Sincerely yours,  
Kartik Sathappan