

From: [Beinart, Amy \(BOS\)](#)
To: [Ronen, Hillary](#); [Aitran Tang Doan](#); [Young, Victor \(BOS\)](#)
Cc: [Monge, Paul \(BOS\)](#); [Lerma, Santiago \(BOS\)](#); [Li-D9, Jennifer \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Re: Student Letter of Support for Professor Deland Chan
Date: Thursday, May 7, 2020 6:59:34 PM

Thank you, Aitran!

>>>>>>>>>>

Amy Beinart | Legislative Aide/Chief of Staff
Office of Supervisor Hillary Ronen
415.554.7739 | amy.beinart@sfgov.org
<https://sfbos.org/supervisor-ronen-district-9>

From: Aitran Tang Doan <adoan13@stanford.edu>
Sent: Thursday, May 7, 2020, 6:04 PM
To: Ronen, Hillary
Cc: Beinart, Amy (BOS); Monge, Paul (BOS); Lerma, Santiago (BOS); Li-D9, Jennifer (BOS)
Subject: Student Letter of Support for Professor Deland Chan

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

Dear Honorable Supervisor Hillary Ronen,

We are a group of Professor Deland Chan's former students at Stanford University expressing our support for her to serve on the San Francisco Planning Commission.

As students who have taken classes, seminars, and field studies with Professor Chan, we have benefitted firsthand from her values-driven pedagogy. As an Asian American woman who grew up in public housing and went on to pursue academic training and professional practice in urban planning, Professor Chan clearly informs her teaching from her identities and experiences. She has taught many of us the importance of holistic, community-driven planning; the need for planning decision makers to be more representative of marginalized communities; the role of empathy in building common understanding in our diverse cities.

Urban planning is a complex process. Professor Chan navigates and build connections:

- **Across disciplines:** She has taught interdisciplinary classes drawing students from various backgrounds: environmental studies, urban studies, engineering, international relations, etc. Deland manages to make urban planning a relevant and important topic across the student body.

- **Across the academic-practice divide:** Professor Chan incorporates project based learning to ensure that students apply theory to action on tangible issues. Many of the classes she teaches are community-engaged learning courses, such as Sustainable Cities, in which students are paired with community partners working on relevant issues.
- **Across backgrounds:** Professor Chan is able to meet students where they are and guide them to develop empathy and understanding of the disparities in urban communities.
- **Across urban contexts:** She contextualizes cities and planning in the global context. Through initiatives such as the International Urbanization Seminar, students have collaborated across the world to learn from different contexts.

Professor Chan's positive influence on students is undeniable. Many of her students have gone on to pursue planning and governance related work as city planners and organizers, including a SF Fellow, a Housing Commissioner, and more. Some of her students started SCoPE 2035, a coalition that held Stanford University accountable for sustainable and equitable development in the 2018 General Use Permit process.

Please accept Deland Chan for the San Francisco Planning Commission. She has the qualifications and principles necessary to serve San Francisco's communities.

Sincerely,

John Zhao, Stanford BS '18, University of British Columbia Master in Community and Regional Planning Candidate, Former City of Cupertino Housing Commissioner
Aitran Doan, Stanford BA '20

Derek Lee, Stanford BS '17, Biostatistics Master Student at UCLA Fielding School of Public Health

Jacqueline Ramos, Stanford BA '18, Founder of The Coffee Effect

Rocio Hernandez, Stanford BA '18, Nonprofit Professional in Civic Technology

Sean Volavong, Stanford BA '18, Project Manager in Education Technology

Skye Talavera, Stanford BA '18, Ed-Tech Program Lead

Tran Diep Lam, Stanford BS '17, MS '20, Graduate Student in Earth Systems Science

Lena Blackmon, Stanford BS, '19, MS '20, Graduate Student in Applied and Engineering Physics

Christine Phan, Stanford BS '19, Field Associate at APIAVote

Chiamaka Ogwuegbu, Stanford BS '18, Deputy Chief of Staff at SFMTA

Pablo Haake, Stanford BA '19, Public Policy Fellow, City of San José

Sungmoon Lim, Stanford BA '18, Researcher at Smart City Expo World Congress

Nicholas Kraus, Stanford BA '18, Project Manager at New York City Economic Development Corporation

Robert Young, Stanford BS '19, MS '19, Data Scientist at Kiwee

Flora Wang, Stanford BS '19, MS '20, Data Scientist at Hangar

Jenny Han, Stanford BS '19, Public School Educator in Training

Davianna Olert, Stanford BS '18, MS '20, Graduate Student in Sustainability Science and Practice

Nicole Phillips, Stanford BA '18, Curology Brand Marketing Manager

Isaiah Smith, Stanford '19

Alice Fang, Stanford BS '15, User Experience Researcher, Google

Bianca R. Draud, Stanford BS '17, MS '19, Battery Analyst at Stem Inc

Geena Chen, Stanford BS '16, Circular Economy Partnerships Director

Tucker Bryant, Stanford BA '16, Google Privacy Product Marketing Manager

Christina Zhou, Stanford BS '14, MS '15, Sales Operations Manager at Carbon Lighthouse

Kai Kane Aoki Izu, Stanford BA '16, MA '17, Global Product Management, Intuit

Sara Zia-Liu Maurer, Stanford BA '16, Graduate Student of School Counseling and Clinical Counseling



Anti-Eviction Mapping Project

558 Capp St, San Francisco, CA 94110

Dear Members of the Board of Supervisors,

As co-founders and members of the Anti Eviction Mapping Project (AEMP), we are writing to express our strong support for Deland Chan to be seated on the Planning Commission.

Co-founded in 2013, the mission of the Anti-Eviction Mapping Project (AEMP) is to educate the public and to support the activities of other agencies working on behalf of housing equity in the region. The project began by producing data visualizations and digital cartographies useful to organizations and researchers working on anti-displacement eviction organizing, beginning with an interactive map of San Francisco Ellis Act evictions from 1994 to the present day. The foundational underpinning of the AEMP continues to be an emphasis on informing, empowering, and activating individuals who are negatively impacted by housing inequity and displacement and to support the work of organizations working in this space. By excavating pertinent data and producing accessible, powerful visualizations of this abstract information connected with individual stories-of-struggle, the AEMP re-orient and repositions power in the community and in the hands of those who are working to restore housing equity in low-income communities and communities of color.

AEMP partnered with Deland for her Sustainable Cities class at Stanford University for three iterations of the class in Winter 2014, Fall 2018, and Fall 2019. Through her guidance, students in her class contributed to AEMP's flagship projects including Narratives of Displacement and Resistance, the Counterpoints Atlas, and the Dislocations: Black Exodus project. Students collected oral histories of those facing displacement, edited content for the online platforms, and also contributed to drafting grant proposals to maintain the financial sustainability of this volunteer collective.

Deland has also volunteered to be a chapter co-editor for the *Counterpoints Atlas*, which will be published by PM Press later this year. Through this work, Deland set the direction for the Infrastructure, Transportation, and Energy chapter, co-authored the chapter introduction, and worked to curate submissions and coordinate with contributors. In addition to these roles, she involved her students to create a glossary and educational supplement to the Atlas.

Through our work with Deland, we can attest that she is a collaborative and contributing member of the collective. As an educator and researcher, she cares deeply about introducing her students to understanding the systematic racism and institutional biases that urban planners have exacerbated in low-income communities of color. She also guides her classroom

collaborations to produce products of tangible value to AEMP such as media exposure (see this KALW [piece](#)) or to contribute to the labor that is necessary for this work.

We strongly support Deland to be a member of the Planning Commission. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
The Anti-Eviction Mapping Project

From: [John Zhao](#)
To: [Young, Victor \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Students in Support of Professor Deland Chan for SF Planning Commission
Date: Thursday, May 7, 2020 6:14:08 PM

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

Dear Clerk Young,

I would like to submit the letter below in support of Deland Chan for the Planning Commission. Can you include this for public record for the May 11 Rules Committee meeting?

Thanks,
John Zhao

Dear Honorable Supervisors Ronen, Stefani, and Mar,

We are a group of Professor Deland Chan's former students at Stanford University expressing our support for her to serve on the San Francisco Planning Commission.

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Kai Kane Aoki Izu, Stanford BA '16, MA '17, Global Product Management, Intuit
Sara Zia-Liu Maurer, Stanford BA '16, Graduate Student of School Counseling and Clinical Counseling

May 11th, 2020

Board of Supervisors
San Francisco City Hall
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Pl.
San Francisco, CA 94102

Dear Honorable Board of Supervisors,

As a diverse grouping of people of color-led organizations intent on **Racial & Social Equity**, we are writing regarding a critically important matter that comes before your office: a vote for the appointment of a new planning commissioner, **Deland Chan**.

The Planning Commission's work deeply impacts the lives of all San Francisco residents, particularly people of color from lower-income communities that have traditionally and systematically been hit first and worst by plans, strategies and decisions of City Planners and by Departmental policies. As such, our coalition has united to work to advocate for our respective communities and ensure we have meaningful collective representation on this governing body.

We are writing to give our full support of Deland, a woman of color who has been a community leader in San Francisco's Chinatown where she served as a Senior Planner at Chinatown Community Development Center. Today Deland leads the Community engaged Learning in the Urban Studies Department at Stanford University. Her personal story and upbringing also adds to the holistic understanding that she brings to the commission. In addition Deland:

- Brings her experience working in diverse communities and working across neighborhoods to bring people together
- Recognizing the lack of community voices in planning processes has leveraged her background in education and research to ensure that more people are brought into planning both in terms of engagement and in terms of careers
- Has deep roots in the communities of San Francisco and will bring a community voice for equity to the planning commission

Who we are We are a cross-sector grouping of organizations that represents a diverse mix of communities of color intent on advancing Racial & Social Equity. Via our collective efforts, we strive to better the lives of our constituents, as well as the health, sustainability and vibrancy of San Francisco. As advocates, organizers, service providers and community planners, we are collectively organizing people of color and working families in San Francisco through the advocacy of equitable development, affordable housing, environmental justice, economic development, public services, immigrant rights and educational attainment.

Equity vision and practice Our communities are looking for authentic and equity-focused leadership at the

Planning Commission. We are looking for vision and a deep understanding of regional planning, economic development and transportation issues: Someone who can see beyond the exterior of the architecture of our city's buildings, and into the histories and narratives of the people who for generations created and re-created our neighborhoods.

We strongly encourage you — as someone who has shown a strong sensitivity and commitment to racial, gender and social equity in your long career of community service — to vote in support of Deland Chan.

Sincerely,

People Organizing to Demand Environmental and Economic Rights, Mission Economic Development Agency, Chinese Progressive Association, GLIDE, Communities United for Health & Justice, South of Market Community Action Network, Chinatown Community Development Center, Mission Housing Development Corporation, Calle 24 Latino Cultural District, SOMA Pilipinas, San Francisco Tenants Union, Council of Community Housing Organizations, Tenant Owners Development Corporation.

From: [Jenny Leung](#)
To: [Young, Victor \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Public Comment for Item #2 - May 11, 2020 Rules Committee
Date: Monday, May 11, 2020 10:58:42 AM

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Dear Victor,

I am writing to give public comment for Item #2, Presidential Nomination of Deland Chan to the Planning Commission.

I was having trouble calling in and being heard.

My name is Jenny Leung, Executive Director of the Chinese Culture Center. We are a 55 year old nonprofit in Chinatown that is committed to building strong communities and supporting artists. We recently debuted “Stories of Belonging in Chinatown” a story sharing project by Christine Wong Yap that connects a sense of belonging to the community. It has pivoted online, and has even more relevance in today’s environment.

I want to thank President Yee for nominating Deland Chan to the Planning Commission.

I have known Deland, and work with her for the last ten years. We collaborated around public art and equity for the upcoming Central Subway and advocated for the inclusion of creativity by local artists. Deland’s strength is her commitment to the community and strong understanding of cross-sector issues.

Over the years, as Deland has built her career, skills and experiences that make her an outstanding candidate, she has always stayed connected to the community.

Deland is a perfect fit to advise the Mayor, Board of Supervisors and City departments on San Francisco’s long-range goals, policies and programs on a broad range of issues related to land use, transportation, and maintaining the City’s General Plan. She is uniquely qualified as she came from the community, an expert on planning issues while being sensitive to communities of color.

Most of all, Deland is fair and never afraid to confront difficult and challenging situations. I have known her to be a person of integrity, community-minded and has the ability to connect planning with a focus on livability and lives of working people.

And acknowledge the Committee for your commitment to the underserved in the City. We look forward to your affirmative vote to appoint Deland Chan as the City’s Planning Commissioner.

Thank you for your time.

Jenny

--

Jenny Leung 梁凱欣

she/her

Executive Director

Tel: 415-986-1822 ext. 032

Chinese Culture Center of San Francisco

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750 Kearny St., 3rd Floor,

San Francisco, CA 94108

Elevate the Underserved. Give Voice to Equality.

[Website](#) | [Facebook](#) | [Instagram](#)

