

Gerard Gleason
100 2nd Avenue #4
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March 7, 2021

Supervisor Aaron Peskin
Supervisor Connie Chan
Supervisor Rafael Mandelman
Rules Committee, San Francisco Board of Supervisors
One Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place
San Francisco CA 94102

RE: Rules Committee March 8, 2020 Item 3

Letter in Support of Francis Gleason for appointment to Golden Gate Bridge Highway & Transportation District Board of Directors

Dear Supervisors Peskin, Chan and Mandelman,

I am writing in support of my brother, Francis (Frank) Gleason for one of the seats on the Golden Gate Bridge Highway and Transportation District. Frank is currently a driver for Golden Gate Transit, and I know that he is uniquely qualified, and San Francisco would be well served, to have Frank be appointed to the Golden Gate Bridge Board. A major function of the Bridge District is having people transverse to and from Marin and San Francisco and handling how that occurs. From San Francisco's standpoint there is also the concern of the impact of this activity.

Frank has been a union driver since the 1980s, first with the Teamsters, and currently with Golden Gate transit. If you want to be able to get around, you ask Frank. Traffic impacts, ask Frank. Who are the people who use and need public transit, ask Frank.

Like Frank, I have been a life-long resident of the inner-Richmond district. I have concerns about impact of Golden Gate Bridge traffic and commuters on my neighborhood. Frank and I grew up in the neighborhood, went to the public schools, raised our own families here, and I know that Frank is committed to ensuring that our public agencies serve everyone.

My own experience with the Board of Supervisors Rules Committee is when I was selected for two terms as the Board of Supervisor's sole appointment to the San Francisco Elections Commission. I served from 2004-2013. At the time, the Rules Committee selected me for my knowledge of public elections – having designed the optical scan ballots for the SF Department of Elections, and after a short stint working for the City, I continued serving as an election day poll worker. I had no connections or "juice". The Rules Committee took a leap of faith. The Elections Department went from chaos to stellar. I served for ten years and missed only 2 meetings during my service. I came to meetings prepared. And after 10 years, someone else was appointed to the Board's seat on the Commission – and that is a good thing.

I am surprised the Golden Gate Bridge District Board of Directors appears to have long-term appointments. I have not heard of new and fresh ideas out of that organization in some time. I live near the bridge and everything seems to be "same old, same old". New perspective and voice are needed.

I know that Frank has to cross that bridge several times a day. Frank has to do that on a schedule. Who on that Board of Directors right now can say that? Right now I work safely from home. But my brother Frank is out there driving people who have no other option than public transit... and Frank does it with a paper mask on. I cannot say more about Frank and commitment than that. Frank is frontline when frontline means something. Please, I know it will be difficult, but I ask that you take that leap, involve new people. Be the change. Appoint my brother Frank to the Golden Gate Bridge Board.

Sincerely,



Gerard Gleason