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November 3, 2023

Matt Dorsey, Committee Chair  
Rules Committee  
San Francisco Board of Supervisors  
City Hall  
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, Room 244  
San Francisco, California 94102

*Sent via email to [bos@sfgov.org](mailto:bos@sfgov.org)*

**RE: YOUR COMMITTEE CAN RELIEVE QUORUM PRESSURE ON THE  
BEHAVIORAL HEALTH COMMISSION BY APPOINTING TWO  
ADDITIONAL MEMBERS TO IT JUST AS WELL AS BY REDUCING ITS SIZE  
(RELEVANT TO FILE NO. 231076, NO. 3 ON MONDAY'S AGENDA).**

Honorable Committee Chair Dorsey:

As a correction to my letter of Oct. 30, the current vacancy announcement for the Behavioral Health Commission shows that Supervisor Joel Engardio has appointed Peter Murphy to Seat No. 5 on the Commission, bringing the number of active members to 11. Furthermore, the occupants of Seat Nos. 15 and 16 shown on the announcement, both appointed by the Board of Supervisors on recommendation from this Committee, have not attended meetings in nearly two years. Replacing them with two of the seven candidates with pending applications to the Commission would increase the number of active members to 13. This would be four greater than quorum, and one greater than needed for a 2/3 majority (required for some motions).

Using 13 active members as a comparison, reducing the size of the Commission from 17 to 11 would do nothing to reduce pressure on the quorum requirement. At 11 members, the two appointments could not be made. In addition, two of the current 11 active members would have to be *dismissed from the Commission* on the presumption that none of them meet requirements for the veteran or veteran advocate and seated Supervisor seats. At nine active members out of 11, the Commission would be three more than quorum and one member more than the requirement for a 2/3 majority. As far as pressure on the quorum and 2/3 majority requirements are concerned, these two alternatives are approximately equal.

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These two alternatives are not equal in other ways. Having four additional people to prosecute the Commission's business (and the possibility of appointments by three individual Supervisors in the future) would be of great assistance, and it would give at least four additional people the experience (or additional experience) of wielding public power. For this reason, we ask that you amend your proposed legislation to leave the size of the Commission unchanged and recommend to the Board of Supervisors appointments to Seat Nos. 15 and 16 of the Commission from the remaining seven pending applications (or a future veteran or veteran advocate application) at a future meeting of your Committee.

In addition, the memorandum from the Clerk of the Board dated Oct. 31 and also included in the communications packet for this item at the hearing on Monday contains an error. The first bullet on p. 3 says that language should be added regarding administrative support for the Commission. Such language was added by Ord. No. 229-20 and currently appears in § 15.12.5, which would be unaffected by, and does not appear in, your proposed legislation.

Very Truly Yours,

/s/

Wynship Hillier