

**From:** [kateinsf@aol.com](mailto:kateinsf@aol.com)  
**To:** [Young, Victor \(BOS\)](#)  
**Subject:** Fwd: MTA Board Recommendation - Sharon Lai  
**Date:** Friday, August 7, 2020 8:01:05 AM

---

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

Hello Victor,

Thanks for returning my call yesterday. Below is the letter in support of Sharon Lai I sent to the BOS and all their aides (I removed all their email addresses from the message - there were 53, but I did not have any bounce-backs).

Best regards,

Kate Black

-----Original Message-----

Sent: Wed, Aug 5, 2020 12:02 pm  
Subject: MTA Board Recommendation - Sharon Lai

Dear Board of Supervisors Chair Yee and Members Fewer, Haney, Mandelman, Mar, Peskin, Preston, Ronen, Stefani, Safai and Walton:

It is with pleasure that I write this recommendation for Sharon Lai to a position on the MTA Board.

I hired Sharon as an urban planner in 2005 and was her immediate supervisor in a small, active department at the City of Piedmont. Throughout her employment, I was impressed by Sharon's smarts, work ethic, energy and initiative. Due to her interest in transportation as an essential urban function, she asked to be the City's representative with the Alameda County Congestion Management Agency, a regional consortium tasked with addressing transportation matters on a regional basis. Although this was a responsibility typically given to a more experienced planner, I gave her the responsibility because of her strong interest and demonstrated ability to exceed in work-related demands, and I knew she would perform well. Sharon was an excellent employee who was respected by the City Council and Planning Commission, and well-liked by co-workers and members of the community.

Since Piedmont, Sharon has distinguished herself in each step of her career, making her a strong candidate for this position. She will bring fifteen years of urban planning, development and community engagement experience. As a longtime urban planning professional prior to my retirement, and now as an Historic Preservation Commissioner, I value the importance and can attest to the necessity for decision-makers to listen to and communicate clearly across all stakeholder groups. Sharon has demonstrated her ability to do this through her personal and professional life, including her current role as Vice President of the Treasure Island Development Authority Board and various non-profit work.

On a more personal level, as a working parent of school age children, Sharon has managed to find homelife balance with her work and volunteer efforts. As a fluent Chinese speaker, she will bring diversity to the Board, along with the characteristics that make her a strong leader, a collaborative partner, a persevering advocate, and an energetic supporter.

I strongly recommend her to the MTA Board without reservation.

Respectfully submitted,

Kate Black  
70 Vicksburg Street  
San Francisco, CA 94114



August 10, 2020

ROSE PAK DEMOCRATIC CLUB MTA BOARD OF DIRECTORS STATEMENT

The Rose Pak Democratic Club (RPDC) would like to express our support for Sharon Lai's nomination to the MTA Board of Directors.

RPDC had the opportunity to meet with Sharon and examined several factors when evaluating her candidacy-- professional experience, knowledge of API issues, and demonstrated history of accountability to our community.

Sharon Lai impressed RPDC with her extensive background in Planning, Land Use, Transportation and Public Service. As a San Francisco Planner for nearly a decade, she demonstrated a strong understanding of our city's bureaucracy. We are satisfied Sharon will be able to fully comprehend the complex issues that come before the MTA Board and how they affect the lives of San Francisco residents.

Having worked with API on a number of issues and having supported several progressive initiatives, we feel Sharon can be held accountable to the API community. She was a strong proponent of 2018's Prop C. RPDC did express our concerns with Sharon's background working as a for-profit developer, however we feel that fact alone should not negate her past work within the API community.

The MTA Board of Directors has gone far too long without any API representation. The API community is one-third of San Francisco's population, and it is disheartening that we must fight to have our voice heard. RPDC respectfully asks that the Board of SUPERVISORS support the nomination of Sharon Lai to the MTA Board in order to uplift the needs of women, families, immigrants, and the API community.

Sincerely,

Jeremy Lee  
Vice-President  
Rose Pak Democratic Club

Kitty Fong  
President  
Rose Pak Democratic Club

August 9, 2020

The Honorable Norman Yee  
President  
San Francisco Board of Supervisors  
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place  
San Francisco, CA 94102

**RE: Support of Appointment of Ms. Sharon Lai to SFMTA Board of Directors**

Dear President Yee,

I am writing in support of Ms. Sharon Lai's appointment to the SFMTA Board of Directors. I have known Ms. Lai in many contexts and most recently as former member of the San Francisco Hep B Free (SFHBF) Governance Council where Ms. Lai and I both served together.

I have been able to directly witness Ms. Lai's ability to build coalition and community in harder to reach communities through our work in navigating stigma and overcoming cultural barriers during our advocacy at SFHBF. Ms. Lai will bring a lens to the SFMTA board that would represent the perspective of working families and be a voice for limited English proficient immigrant families who rely on public transportation.

Having served as staff to California State Treasurer Fiona Ma since 2010 where the past five years I served as her Chief of Staff, I understand the importance of a constituent forward and facing approach to guide policy through appropriate representation of the community you serve.

Ms. Lai carries the experience, acumen, passion, and skills to be a great steward of SFMTA and serve the City and County of San Francisco. I ask for your support in her appointment to the SFMTA Board of Directors.

Sincerely,



Genevieve V. Jopanda  
State Chair Emeritus  
Filipino American Caucus  
California Democratic Party

Cc: Supervisor Hillary Ronen  
Supervisor Catherine Stefani  
Supervisor Gordon Mar  
Rules Committee Clerk Victor Young

**From:** [Janice Li](#)  
**To:** [Ronen, Hillary](#); [Stefani, Catherine \(BOS\)](#); [Mar, Gordon \(BOS\)](#)  
**Cc:** [Young, Victor \(BOS\)](#); [Board of Supervisors, \(BOS\)](#)  
**Subject:** Supporting Sharon Lai for SFMTA Board  
**Date:** Sunday, August 9, 2020 11:41:50 PM

---

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

To Chair Ronen and members of the Rules Committee:

Thank you so much for scheduling the Rules Committee, even during the usual August recess. I recognize nothing is "usual" these days, and particularly unusual at the moment are the significant number of vacancies on the SFMTA Board. It's important that the Rules Committee and the Board of Supervisors as a whole move forward with hearing the candidates nominated and work to fill all the vacancies on the SFMTA Board.

In particular, I want to speak up and express my strong support for Sharon Lai to move forward with a recommendation through your committee and have her nomination confirmed by the full Board.

Last year, alongside Jen Chan, Jen Low, Queena Chen and Rose Chen, I penned [an op-ed in the SF Examiner](#) entitled "Representation matters -- now more than ever." In that piece, the five of us (young, Chinese-American women involved in local politics in a variety of ways) expressed the need to see API representation on the SFMTA Board in particular. Even though APIs make up 31% of San Francisco's population, the SFMTA Board has only had one API representative (Lee Hsu) in the last five years, after Jerry Lee passed away in 2015. And as you know, there are zero API representatives on the board currently and only one POC (Chair Gwyneth Borden).

You as Supervisors have the chance to change that, and before you is an excellent nominee in Sharon Lai. She has over a decade in public service, including nearly eight years as a planner at the SF Planning Department. Her direct professional experience as an urban planner along with her ties with the Chinese community make her a strong pick for the SFMTA Board.

Thank you for your attention to this letter, and I look forward to filling all seven seats on the SFMTA Board with expediency.

Best,  
Janice

--

me at [janice.li](#) / [twitter](#) / [instagram](#) - she/hers

July 30, 2020

The Honorable Hillary Ronen  
1 Dr. Carlton B Goodlett Pl, Rm #244  
San Francisco, CA 94102

RE: Support of Sharon Lai's appointment to the SFMTA Board of Directors

Dear Ronen,

I am writing in strong support of Ms. Sharon Lai's appointment to the San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency (SFMTA) Board of Directors.

I have known Sharon in various capacities over the years through her active engagement and participation in many community programs. Five years ago, I recruited her for the Governance Council of San Francisco Hep B Free - Bay Area, which I am currently Chair. She was very passionate about the mission of SF Hep B Free and our work in the API community. She is fluent in Cantonese and Mandarin. Sharon is well acquainted with the API community, which is our focus and target audience. She was active in fundraising and assisted on many new awareness initiatives and educational programs to aid in the eradication of the Hepatitis B in our high risk population. Sharon was always willing to help, challenged staff to be more efficient and effective, and worked well with other board members and the community to further promote hepatitis B screening, vaccination and linkage to care.

Sharon, as a trained urban planner for the City, understands the issues intimately, the SFMTA's budget constraints on transportation during the COVID-19 pandemic, and the need to invest strategically in critical transportation infrastructure to connect all neighborhoods of San Francisco through public transit. As an Asian American, she will bring a unique diversity to the seven-member body of the SFMTA Board of Directors through her professional and life experiences. An avid transit commuter who often drops off and picks up her children on Muni from school and extracurricular activities, she has firsthand knowledge and experience with the transit system in San Francisco and its daily challenges. She also understands the balance of the needs of those residents and businesses that are more car-oriented and growing the biking public. She is keenly aware of the need to improve pedestrian safety and rider safety, especially for vulnerable monolingual immigrant and senior communities.

As a native and a life-long resident of San Francisco, I am proud to wholeheartedly support Ms. Sharon Lai for this position.

Thank you for your consideration, and I urge your support of her appointment to the SFMTA Board of Directors.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

Stuart Fong  
Chair, SF Hep B Free – Bay Area  
Email: [stuartmfong@gmail.com](mailto:stuartmfong@gmail.com)  
Mobile: 1(415)990-8247



# UNITED • PLAYAZ

1038 Howard Street • San Francisco, CA 94103

[www.unitedplayaz.org](http://www.unitedplayaz.org)

---

August 1, 2020

To Whom It May Concern:

My name is Rudy Corpuz Jr. I am the Founder and Director of United Playaz, a violence prevention and leadership development organization designed to provide youth with positive role models and activities to engage in as an alternative to involvement with gangs, drugs and other high-risk behaviors. I am writing this letter in support of Sharon Lai.

I'm writing in support of Sharon Lai's appointment onto the SFMTA. Sharon has been a supporter of UP's work and has been a great partner in the community. She has demonstrated empathy and integrity, which are qualities we want in our community leaders. It takes an entire community coming together to make positive change and I believe Sharon will be a strong voice for our youth as well as for the at risk families. Please vote in favor of her appointment.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or require additional information at 415-716-4100.

In peace,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rudy Corpuz Jr." with a stylized flourish at the end.

Rudy Corpuz Jr.  
Executive Director

From: Cindy Wu <[wu.cindy@gmail.com](mailto:wu.cindy@gmail.com)>

Date: Tue, Aug 4, 2020 at 11:58 AM

Subject: support Sharon Lai - SFMTA

To: <[Sandra.Fewer@sfgov.org](mailto:Sandra.Fewer@sfgov.org)>, <[Catherine.Stefani@sfgov.org](mailto:Catherine.Stefani@sfgov.org)>, Peskin, Aaron (BOS) <[Aaron.Peskin@sfgov.org](mailto:Aaron.Peskin@sfgov.org)>, <[Gordon.Mar@sfgov.org](mailto:Gordon.Mar@sfgov.org)>, <[Dean.Preston@sfgov.org](mailto:Dean.Preston@sfgov.org)>, <[Matt.Haney@sfgov.org](mailto:Matt.Haney@sfgov.org)>, <[Norman.Yee@sfgov.org](mailto:Norman.Yee@sfgov.org)>, <[Rafael.Mandelman@sfgov.org](mailto:Rafael.Mandelman@sfgov.org)>, <[Hillary.Ronen@sfgov.org](mailto:Hillary.Ronen@sfgov.org)>, <[Shamann.Walton@sfgov.org](mailto:Shamann.Walton@sfgov.org)>, <[Ahsha.Safai@sfgov.org](mailto:Ahsha.Safai@sfgov.org)>

Dear Honorable Supervisors

I'm writing to strongly support Sharon Lai's appointment to the SFMTA Board. I've worked with Sharon for years, since the time I sat on the Planning Commission in 2012. Sharon is a thoughtful and compassionate leader, and has shown this in spades during her public service on the Treasure Island Development Authority Board. Sharon has close ties to the Asian American community and is also a bridge and consensus builder between communities. Her language skills as a Cantonese and Mandarin speaker give her access to understanding much of San Francisco's monolingual population. Additionally, Sharon's lived experience as a parent is a crucial voice on the Board, navigating the logistics of travel to multiple schools and her own job.

Please vote yes on her appointment to the SFMTA Board.

Sincerely,

Cindy Wu



San Francisco Bicycle Coalition  
1720 Market Street  
San Francisco, CA 94102

T 415.431.BIKE

F 415.431.2468

[sfbike.org](http://sfbike.org)

PROMOTING THE BICYCLE FOR EVERYDAY TRANSPORTATION

August 5, 2020

San Francisco Board of Supervisors  
Rules Committee  
Supervisor Hillary Ronen, Chair  
City Hall, 1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place  
San Francisco, CA 94102

Dear Chair Ronen,

On behalf of our over 10,000 members, I write to voice the San Francisco Bicycle Coalition's support for Mayor Breed's nomination of Sharon Lai to the SFMTA Board of Directors.

Through her work with One Vassar, Sharon has actively engaged our staff and community to understand the transportation impacts of projects she has worked on. She has repeatedly demonstrated an ability to ensure that the built environment supports safe, healthy and sustainable active transportation choices like biking. Her background as a planner grounds her work in practices of community engagement and outreach, and she has been a strong voice in pushing for our transportation system to equitably serve San Francisco's many communities and neighborhoods.

As the coronavirus pandemic continues to disproportionately impact Black and brown communities in San Francisco, the equitable recovery of our transportation system, including restoring Muni service and improving the safety of walking and biking, will be central to addressing the health and economic consequences of those who have suffered the most. The SFMTA must have a strong and active governing board in order to guide that enormous task. The ongoing vacancies on the SFMTA Board have hobbled that work, and I urge you to support the Mayor's nominations to fill those vacancies and forward them to your colleagues for approval with haste.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Brian Wiedenmeier".

Brian Wiedenmeier  
Executive Director

To: [Hillary.Ronen@sfgov.org](mailto:Hillary.Ronen@sfgov.org) <[Hillary.Ronen@sfgov.org](mailto:Hillary.Ronen@sfgov.org)>; [Catherine.Stefani@sfgov.org](mailto:Catherine.Stefani@sfgov.org) <[Catherine.Stefani@sfgov.org](mailto:Catherine.Stefani@sfgov.org)>; [Gordon.Mar@sfgov.org](mailto:Gordon.Mar@sfgov.org) <[Gordon.Mar@sfgov.org](mailto:Gordon.Mar@sfgov.org)>  
Cc: [Amy.Beinart@sfgov.org](mailto:Amy.Beinart@sfgov.org) <[Amy.Beinart@sfgov.org](mailto:Amy.Beinart@sfgov.org)>; [Carolyn.goossen@sfgov.org](mailto:Carolyn.goossen@sfgov.org) <[Carolyn.goossen@sfgov.org](mailto:Carolyn.goossen@sfgov.org)>; [Paul.Monge@sfgov.org](mailto:Paul.Monge@sfgov.org) <[Paul.Monge@sfgov.org](mailto:Paul.Monge@sfgov.org)>; [Jennifer.Li-D9@sfgov.org](mailto:Jennifer.Li-D9@sfgov.org) <[Jennifer.Li-D9@sfgov.org](mailto:Jennifer.Li-D9@sfgov.org)>; [Daniel.Herzstein@sfgov.org](mailto:Daniel.Herzstein@sfgov.org) <[Daniel.Herzstein@sfgov.org](mailto:Daniel.Herzstein@sfgov.org)>; [Andrew.mullan@sfgov.org](mailto:Andrew.mullan@sfgov.org) <[Andrew.mullan@sfgov.org](mailto:Andrew.mullan@sfgov.org)>; [Samuel.Bennett@sfgov.org](mailto:Samuel.Bennett@sfgov.org) <[Samuel.Bennett@sfgov.org](mailto:Samuel.Bennett@sfgov.org)>; [Edward.W.Wright@sfgov.org](mailto:Edward.W.Wright@sfgov.org) <[Edward.W.Wright@sfgov.org](mailto:Edward.W.Wright@sfgov.org)>; [Daisy.Quan@sfgov.org](mailto:Daisy.Quan@sfgov.org) <[Daisy.Quan@sfgov.org](mailto:Daisy.Quan@sfgov.org)>; [Alan.Wong1@sfgov.org](mailto:Alan.Wong1@sfgov.org) <[Alan.Wong1@sfgov.org](mailto:Alan.Wong1@sfgov.org)>; [Jenny.Huang1@sfgov.org](mailto:Jenny.Huang1@sfgov.org) <[Jenny.Huang1@sfgov.org](mailto:Jenny.Huang1@sfgov.org)>  
Sent: Wed, Aug 5, 2020 12:02 pm  
Subject: MTA Board Recommendation - Sharon Lai

Dear Board of Supervisors Rules Committee Chair Ronen and Members Stefani and Mar:

It is with pleasure that I write this recommendation for Sharon Lai to a position on the MTA Board.

I hired Sharon as an urban planner in 2005 and was her immediate supervisor in a small, active department at the City of Piedmont. Throughout her employment, I was impressed by Sharon's smarts, work ethic, energy and initiative. Due to her interest in transportation as an essential urban function, she asked to be the City's representative with the Alameda County Congestion Management Agency, a regional consortium tasked with addressing transportation matters on a regional basis. Although this was a responsibility typically given to a more experienced planner, I gave her the responsibility because of her strong interest and demonstrated ability to exceed in work-related demands, and I knew she would perform well. Sharon was an excellent employee who was respected by the City Council and Planning Commission, and well-liked by co-workers and members of the community.

Since Piedmont, Sharon has distinguished herself in each step of her career, making her a strong candidate for this position. She will bring fifteen years of urban planning, development and community engagement experience. As a longtime urban planning professional prior to my retirement, and now as an Historic Preservation Commissioner, I value the importance and can attest to the necessity for decision-makers to listen to and communicate clearly across all stakeholder groups. Sharon has demonstrated her ability to do this through her personal and professional life, including her current role as Vice President of the Treasure Island Development Authority Board and various non-profit work.

On a more personal level, as a working parent of school age children, Sharon has managed to find homelife balance with her work and volunteer efforts. As a fluent Chinese speaker, she will bring diversity to the Board, along with the characteristics that make her a strong leader, a collaborative partner, a persevering advocate, and an energetic supporter.

I strongly recommend her to the MTA Board without reservation.

Respectfully submitted,

Kate Black  
70 Vicksburg Street  
San Francisco, CA 94114



Transportation  
Research and  
Improvement  
Project

August 6, 2020

San Francisco Board of Supervisors  
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, Room 244  
San Francisco, CA 94102-4689

Dear Supervisors,

We are writing to you on behalf of the Chinatown **Transportation Research and Improvement Project** (Chinatown TRIP) to share our support of Sharon Lai's appointment to the San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency (SFMTA) Board of Directors. Chinatown TRIP is a community volunteer organization with the mission to improve transportation and pedestrian safety in Chinatown through research and planning, bringing improvements to transit service, traffic circulation, quality of life, and pedestrian safety.

As an organization with over 40 years of transportation advocacy in the primarily low-income and senior-heavy neighborhood of Chinatown, we would like to see a director that is sensitive to the unique needs of every individual neighborhood, particularly ones that are underserved and low income in San Francisco. Therefore, we are delighted to see Sharon's candidacy as one that supports SFMTA's initiative to increase the diversity of its board members to accurately represent their ridership. We are confident that Sharon's depth of experience in planning matters in conjunction with her volunteer experience will be an asset to the City of San Francisco and as such, we and the Chinatown community hope and look forward to working closely with her going forward.

Thank you for your time and consideration on this appointment and look forward to hearing the good news.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jon Hee", with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Jon Hee, Co-Chair



August 7, 2020

Supervisors Hillary Ronen, Catherine Stefani, Gordon Mar  
Rules Committee  
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place  
City Hall, Room 244  
San Francisco, CA 94102-4689

Re: Support for appointment of Sharon Lai to the SFMTA Board of Directors

Dear Supervisors Ronen, Stefani, and Mar,

San Francisco Transit Riders (SFTR) is the city's member-supported advocate for transit riders and for affordable, efficient, and growing transit. I'm writing to support the appointment of Sharon Lai to the SFMTA Board of Directors.

Ms. Lai's extensive experience will be a great asset to the SFMTA Board. She has lived her life entirely dependent on public transit, including early years in Asia, later in Canada, and now in San Francisco. She has a personal understanding of the struggle of inaccessibility when public transit doesn't work well, and a global perspective of what's possible. She also has years of experience as a professional planner, and serving as a commissioner, that will serve her well.

I urge you to approve Sharon Lai's appointment to the SFMTA Board of Directors.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Cat Carter".

Cat Carter  
Interim Executive Director  
San Francisco Transit Riders

cc:

SFTMA Board of Directors  
Jeffrey Tumlin, Director of Transportation



August 7, 2020

City & County of San Francisco  
Board of Supervisors - Rules Committee  
City Hall  
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlet Place  
San Francisco, CA 94102-4689

Re: Support for Mayor Breed's nomination of Sharon Lai to SFMTA Board of Directors

Dear Chair Ronen, Supervisor Stefani and Supervisor Mar:

I am writing to register Walk San Francisco's support for Sharon Lai's appointment to the San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency (SFMTA) Board of Directors.

Walk San Francisco is the city's only pedestrian advocacy organization. We believe San Francisco can and should be the safest, most walkable city in the United States. Yet annually 30 people lose their lives to traffic-related fatalities, and close to 600 people live with serious injuries that can be life-changing. Dangerous driving is all too common. As a city, we need to be doing all we can to stop traffic violence, especially for our most vulnerable road users. In 2014, San Francisco took a bold step and passed Vision Zero, our policy goal of eliminating all traffic-related fatalities and serious injuries by 2024. This policy is data driven. We know where and how crashes happen and who suffers the most - children, older adults, people with disabilities, immigrants, and low-income residents - therefore it is achievable. As the city's lead agency on Vision Zero, it is imperative SFMTA Board Members prioritize this policy in every decision.

I believe that Sharon Lai will have our most vulnerable road users top of mind, and understands the most urgent need in increasing the pace of change towards Vision Zero. On a daily basis she experiences the challenges and threats of unsafe street design, fast moving vehicles, and the pains of unreliable transit service as she moves around the city, whether that's getting her two small children to school and daycare, or taking MUNI and walking to her office (pre-COVID). As a former Senior Planner at the San Francisco Planning Department and a Director of Development at One Vassar, she understands the importance of working with community stakeholders to get the best results. She knows first-hand the variety of resources available as well as the constraints of city government. She brings both the personal and professional experience to the position.

We are in a critical time for the SFMTA. Bold decisions and hard choices will need to be made to steer the agency out of the economic crisis caused by the pandemic. As funding for pedestrian safety projects is steeply declining, we need to appoint SFMTA Board Members who will prioritize the most vulnerable to get to Vision Zero. I believe Sharon will.

Her first-hand experience, personal values and professional know-how makes her a great candidate for this leadership role, and she will be a valuable member of this agency.

On behalf of Walk SF, I ask that the Rules Committee send Sharon Lai's nomination to the full Board of Supervisors with a positive recommendation.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jodie", with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Jodie Medeiros  
Executive Director

CC:

Honorable Mayor Breed  
Norman Yee, Board President  
Jeffrey Tumlin, Director of Transportation  
Sharon Lai, SFMTA Board Candidate



*West Bay Pilipino Multi Service Center*

175 7th Street, San Francisco, CA 94103

(415) 431 6266

[www.westbaycenter.org](http://www.westbaycenter.org)

---

9 August 2020

Dear Board of Supervisors,

My name is Carla Laurel and I am the Executive Director of West Bay Pilipino Multi-Service Center, the oldest Filipino led non profit in Northern California. We have been and continue to serve vulnerable communities in the South of Market neighborhood for the past 50 years. We are an extended family and imperative resource for many recent immigrant families in San Francisco. We strive to even the playing field for underserved, vulnerable youth and their families by supplementing our academic programs with financial, social, emotional, and cultural support.

I am writing this letter in support of the appointment for Sharon Lai to be on the SFMTA Board. There needs to be diversity on the SFMTA Board and having Sharon on it is vital. We need more Asian American women in positions like this. Sharon has an understanding for diversity, community voice and makes sure those that are most vulnerable not just have a voice, but are able to have opportunities to thrive. Sharon goes above and beyond her professional capacities to understand what the community needs are and the impact decisions that are made affect organizations like West Bay and our community members. She has made an effort to really understand the needs of our vulnerable youth and families here at West Bay. She volunteers at our events and constantly stays engaged to make sure our families are heard and represented. As an immigrant, like many of our families, she has first hand experience of what it's like navigating through San Francisco, especially since most of our families are heavily reliant on public transportation.

We truly appreciate Sharon and her commitment to the community. We consider her as part of our extended family here at West Bay. She has always been professional, caring, thoughtful, fair and inclusive. We appreciate her commitment to making sure all voices are heard and are excited for the opportunity at more diversity on the SFMTA with her appointment. West Bay is happy to support Sharon Lai on her appointment to the SFMTA and we believe that her appointment will help ensure our vulnerable community members are valued and represented.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Carla Laurel".

Carla Laurel  
Executive Director

August 9, 2020

The Honorable Norman Yee  
President  
San Francisco Board of Supervisors  
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place  
San Francisco, CA 94102

**RE: Support of Appointment of Ms. Sharon Lai to SFMTA Board of Directors**

Dear President Yee,

I am writing in support of Ms. Sharon Lai's appointment to the SFMTA Board of Directors. I have known Ms. Lai in many contexts and most recently as former member of the San Francisco Hep B Free (SFHBF) Governance Council where Ms. Lai and I both served together.

I have been able to directly witness Ms. Lai's ability to build coalition and community in harder to reach communities through our work in navigating stigma and overcoming cultural barriers during our advocacy at SFHBF. Ms. Lai will bring a lens to the SFMTA board that would represent the perspective of working families and be a voice for limited English proficient immigrant families who rely on public transportation.

Having served as staff to California State Treasurer Fiona Ma since 2010 where the past five years I served as her Chief of Staff, I understand the importance of a constituent forward and facing approach to guide policy through appropriate representation of the community you serve.

Ms. Lai carries the experience, acumen, passion, and skills to be a great steward of SFMTA and serve the City and County of San Francisco. I ask for your support in her appointment to the SFMTA Board of Directors.

Sincerely,



Genevieve V. Jopanda  
State Chair Emeritus  
Filipino American Caucus  
California Democratic Party

Cc: Supervisor Hillary Ronen  
Supervisor Catherine Stefani  
Supervisor Gordon Mar  
Rules Committee Clerk Victor Young