

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.

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