

Judge Quentin L. Kopp (Ret.)
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July 15, 2019

Ms. Angela Calvillo
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors

RE: Charter Amendment to Establish Commission on Homeless

Dear Madame Clerk,

I intended this morning to testify against an ordinance on calendar in the Rules Committee to submit a charter amendment establishing a Commission on the Homeless to San Francisco voters this November, but the item had been passed by the time I returned to the hearing room.

I write to record publicly my opposition to such legislation and ask that copies of my letter be distributed to each Board of Supervisors member.

Establishment of a Department on the Homeless already costs taxpayers unproductive money in an amount budgeted for over \$350,000,000 per fiscal year. Adding to unnecessary taxpayer expense is creation of a proposed commission to control the department created by the Mayor with acquiescence of the Board of Supervisors in the annual budget ordinance a few years ago. San Francisco taxpayers are spending hundreds of millions of dollars annually without perceptible results. Supplementing such agony would be a commission partially appointed by Board of Supervisors members. The intent of Board of Supervisors members who support the proposed charter amendment is obvious: Enabling the Board of Supervisors to gain executive power in some degree while also possessing budgetary legislative power.

Elemental observants of San Francisco government understand the innate division of executive and legislative power. I inveigh you to honor it by rejecting the proposed creation of yet another San Francisco commission which will require additional staff, office space, meeting venue, and other corollary costs. The taxpayers suffer and no offsetting achievement will occur by reason of such a proposed commission.

Yours truly,

Judge Quentin L. Kopp (Ret.)

cc: Honorable London Breed