



San Francisco Group of the San Francisco Bay Chapter

July 23, 2026

To: Mayor Daniel Lurie and Board of Supervisors

Dear Mayor and Members of the Board of Supervisors,

The Sierra Club supports the nomination of Mike Chen to the SF Planning Commission. Mike is an exemplary candidate whose experience, commitment to the environment, and collaborative approach make him an ideal addition to the Commission. Having recently served as a member of the SFMTA Board and Chair of SFMTA's Citizens' Advisory Council, Mike has a deep understanding of the role of bodies like the Planning Commission, which interact with the public, city staff and elected officials.

Mike is also a person of integrity and commitment to public service. His collaborative approach has earned him the respect and admiration of colleagues. He has demonstrated an ability to listen to diverse perspectives, build consensus, and make informed decisions that balance the needs of various stakeholders – including our natural ecosystems. This skill is particularly crucial for the Planning Commission, where the ability to navigate complex, often contentious issues is essential for effective governance.

Mike is also a renter and this provides a vital and often underrepresented perspective on a commission tasked with navigating the city's housing affordability and growth strategies.

The Planning Commission plays a critical role in environmental policy, as land-use decisions directly shape our carbon footprint and ability to adapt to climate change. By approving more infill housing in a walkable, bikeable and transit-rich city like San Francisco, the Commission enables more people to live low-carbon lives in a climate-resilient location and reduces the long, polluting commutes that drive the city's overall emissions. The Planning Commission may also consider other critical environmental justice issues like equitable access to green space, trees, and shade as San Francisco's climate warms. Mike's background ensures he will approach planning decisions with a clear understanding of these and other vital links between land use and environmental protection.

The Sierra Club strongly urges the Board to confirm Mike Chen's nomination.

Sincerely,

Charles Whitfield
Chair, San Francisco Group
Sierra Club



July 23, 2026

San Francisco Board of Supervisors
City Hall, 1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place
San Francisco, CA 94102

RE: Letter of Support for Mike Chen – Nomination to the San Francisco Planning Commission

Dear President Rafael Mandelman and Members of the Board of Supervisors,

The United Democratic Club strongly supports the appointment of Mike Chen to the San Francisco Planning Commission. The club is San Francisco's largest and most active Democratic club, bringing together Democrats from across the city to strengthen civic engagement and promote long-term sustainability and progress for the greater good of all San Franciscans.

Mike Chen brings a rare and valuable combination of lived experience, policy expertise, and deep civic engagement. As a member of the San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency (SFMTA) Board of Directors, he incorporated community voices into complex policy decisions. He ensured that agency actions reflected the needs of all communities in San Francisco, including those that are marginalized and underrepresented in our governance structures. His approach reflects both empathy and rigor – qualities essential for effective planning in a city as dynamic and diverse as San Francisco.

Mike's work reflects a clear understanding of how transportation, housing, and land use intersect to create a thriving, resilient city. Layered onto his forward-thinking urban policy is his thoughtful, data-driven approach and his ability to engage deeply with technical material. This served to great benefit at the SFMTA Board of Directors as Mike incorporated data, analysis and community concerns to ensure sound policy-making. This level of sophistication and expertise is a critical need for the complex decisions of the Planning Commission.

Mike's dedication to community and civic engagement is longstanding. He currently serves as an elected member and Director of the San Francisco Democratic County Central Committee, Vice President on the Board of Directors of the United Democratic Club, and board member of the Edwin M. Lee Asian Pacific Democratic Club. He previously served on the board of the Alice B. Toklas LGBTQ+ Democratic Club. In

these roles, he has built strong relationships across neighborhoods and stakeholder groups, reinforcing his ability to balance competing priorities with fairness and transparency. A proud gay Asian American leader, Mike's appointment would bolster representation of these communities on the Planning Commission and ensure that a more complete range of perspectives informs decisions that shape our city's future.

San Franciscans deserve leaders that understand the full breadth of the City's urban planning needs and capabilities, and Mike Chen is that dedicated leader. The United Democratic Club thanks Mayor Daniel Lurie for his nomination of Mike Chen for the Planning Commission, and strongly supports his prompt confirmation by the Board of Supervisors – with full confidence that he will serve with integrity, diligence, and deep commitment to the people of San Francisco.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Lily Ho". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style. The "L" is large and loops around the "ily". The "Ho" is written with a simple, elegant stroke.

Lily Ho
President
United Democratic Club

From: [Board of Supervisors \(BOS\)](#)
To: [BOS-Supervisors](#); [BOS-Legislative Aides](#)
Cc: [BOS-Operations](#); [BOS Legislation, \(BOS\)](#); [Calvillo, Angela \(BOS\)](#); [Mchugh, Eileen \(BOS\)](#); [Somera, Alisa \(BOS\)](#); [De Asis, Edward \(BOS\)](#); [Ng, Wilson \(BOS\)](#); [Young, Victor \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: FW: Please reject the nominations of Chen, Koppel and MacDonald to the Planning Commission
Date: Monday, July 27, 2026 9:07:07 AM

Hello Supervisors,

Please see the below communication from Harry Pariser, regarding:

File No. 260769: Motion approving/rejecting the Mayoral nomination for the appointment of Mike Chen to the Planning Commission, term ending June 30, 2030.

File No. 260864: Motion approving/rejecting the President of the Board of Supervisors Rafael Mandelman's nomination for the appointment of Joel Koppel to the Planning Commission, term ending July 1, 2030.

File No. 260863: Motion approving/rejecting the President of the Board of Supervisors Rafael Mandelman's nomination for the appointment of Elizabeth Macdonald to the Planning Commission, term ending July 1, 2030

Sincerely,

Justice Alcantar

Office of the Clerk of the Board
San Francisco Board of Supervisors
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, Room 244
San Francisco, CA 94102
justice.alcantar@sfgov.org | www.sfbos.org

From: Harry S. Pariser <editorial@savethemanatee.com>
Sent: Sunday, July 26, 2026 9:52 PM
To: BOS-Supervisors <bos-supervisors@sfgov.org>
Cc: MelgarStaff (BOS) <melgarstaff@sfgov.org>; Melgar, Myrna (BOS) <myrna.melgar@sfgov.org>
Subject: Please reject the nominations of Chen, Koppel and MacDonald to the Planning Commission

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

untrusted sources.

Dear Supervisors:

I understand that a majority of you have been indoctrinated into the Alice in Wonderland YIMBY theology (fewer regulations = loads of truly affordable housing) and are unlikely to vote against these bad candidates.

But be aware that the real estate lobby is pushing all of these, and please vote against them.

Show some spine for a change!

Harry S. Pariser

From: [Board of Supervisors \(BOS\)](#)
To: [BOS-Supervisors](#); [BOS-Legislative Aides](#)
Cc: [BOS-Operations](#); [BOS Legislation, \(BOS\)](#); [Calvillo, Angela \(BOS\)](#); [Mchugh, Eileen \(BOS\)](#); [Somera, Alisa \(BOS\)](#); [De Asis, Edward \(BOS\)](#); [Ng, Wilson \(BOS\)](#); [Young, Victor \(BOS\)](#)
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Harry S. Pariser

From: [T Flandrich](#)
To: [Walton, Shamann \(BOS\)](#); [SherrillStaff](#); [MandelmanStaff \(BOS\)](#); [Waltonstaff \(BOS\)](#)
Cc: [Young, Victor \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Items #1, #2 and #3 Appointments to Planning Commission
Date: Monday, July 27, 2026 8:51:01 AM

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

25 July 2026

Dear Chair Walton & Members of the Rules Committee,

Regarding Item #3: In terms of the mayoral replacement of Derek Braun, given Mr Braun's academic background in planning and his work experience in actual housing in the region, along with his past 4 years serving on this commission, the mayoral nominee, data engineer Mike Chen, is sadly lacking in planning expertise & very concerning.

- While Mr Chen's resume is attached, the Planning Commission **application is missing**
- The application asks appointees "how your qualifications represent the communities of interest, neighborhoods, and the diversity...." -this information is helpful to decision-makers & the public
- Past applications for this commission often contained more individual information, such as what they might bring to this commission-unfortunately Mr Chen has not included this.

For the reasons stated above, I ask you to reject the mayoral nomination of Mr Chen.

I hope that there will be a robust discussion about/ and with all nominees at this hearing before forwarding nominations on to the full board.

Thank you for your consideration,
Theresa Flandrich