

From: [Mariko Davidson](#)
To: [Peskin, Aaron \(BOS\)](#); [ChanStaff \(BOS\)](#); [MandelmanStaff, \[BOS\]](#)
Cc: [Stefani, Catherine \(BOS\)](#); [Preston, Dean \(BOS\)](#); [Dorsey, Matt \(BOS\)](#); [MelgarStaff \(BOS\)](#); [Safai, Ahsha \(BOS\)](#); [Walton, Shamann \(BOS\)](#); [Young, Victor \(BOS\)](#); [Mar, Gordon \(BOS\)](#); [Ronen, Hillary](#)
Subject: Letter of Support for Planning Commission Nominee, Rachael Tanner
Date: Saturday, September 17, 2022 10:07:05 PM

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September 19, 2022

San Francisco Board of Supervisors
ATTN: Rules Committee

RE: Letter of Support for Planning Commission Nominee, Rachael Tanner

Dear Members of the Board of Supervisors,

My name is Mariko Davidson. My husband, two young sons, and I are proud District 11 residents. We have been proud to call San Francisco home since 2016. **I am writing to support Rachael Tanner's nomination to the San Francisco Planning Commission.**

In my professional role at Ford Mobility, LLC. I build new mobility partnerships with cities. Formally trained as an urban planner, I build policy initiatives with positive social impact. For the past 13 plus years, I've held leadership roles in technology companies, non-profits, government (municipal, state), and international diplomacy, to build unique and impactful programs with cities.

Rachael and I first became acquainted through our graduate studies program. We both matriculated through the Master's in City Planning Program offered by the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. During that time, Rachael played a leading role in the Students of Color Committee. She also ran for and was elected to the student government of the department. In these two roles she helped give students a voice in the process of selecting new faculty and helped build community among the student body.

In her nearly 2 years on the Planning Commission, Rachael has continued to be a leader. She listens closely to all stakeholders and seeks to identify common ground, room for compromises, and ways to improve both projects and policies.

Furthermore, in her everyday life Rachael is a city-girl--like me! She understands what it's like hustling to BART on streets that weren't designed for bikes and sidewalks that aren't always hospitable to pedestrians. She understands how hard families like mine work to carve out a place to call home in this city. And she takes to heart a responsibility to ensure San Francisco continues to be a city on a hill, shining bright as

an example throughout the world.

I urge you to support Rachael's nomination to the Planning Commission.

Sincerely,



Mariko Davidson

[336 Louisburg St](#)

[San Francisco CA 94112](#)

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Mariko Davidson / (415) 854-2249

From: [Renesha Westerfield](#)
To: [Peskin, Aaron \(BOS\)](#); [MandelmanStaff, \[BOS\]](#); [ChanStaff \(BOS\)](#)
Cc: [Young, Victor \(BOS\)](#); [Mar, Gordon \(BOS\)](#); [Dorsey, Matt \(BOS\)](#); [MelgarStaff \(BOS\)](#); [Ronen, Hillary](#); [Preston, Dean \(BOS\)](#); [Stefani, Catherine \(BOS\)](#); [Safai, Ahsha \(BOS\)](#); [Walton, Shamann \(BOS\)](#); rachael.tanner.work@gmail.com
Subject: ATTN: Rules Committee
Date: Sunday, September 18, 2022 8:01:01 PM

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September 19, 2022

San Francisco Board of Supervisors

ATTN: Rules Committee

RE: Letter of Support for Planning Commission Nominee, Rachael Tanner

Dear Members of the Board of Supervisors,

My name is Renesha Westerfield. I am a human resources professional and I live in District 4. **I am writing to support the nomination of Rachael Tanner to the San Francisco Planning Commission.**

I have had the opportunity to observe Rachael's character. **The traits she exhibits are exactly the traits San Francisco needs. Rachael is empathetic, a great listener, organized, thorough, and committed to equity.**

I came to know Rachael when she prepared me to officiate the wedding of two friends. Rachael worked to ensure I had all the know-how to officiate what would be my first wedding. She cheered me on and focused on the positive. Rachael also helped the couple think through the momentous nature of the ceremony as well as the small details that would make their ceremony extraordinary. Focused more on substance than on appearance, Rachael encouraged us to dig deep and work from a place of love and vulnerability.

A short time later, I decided to join Rachael by officiating more weddings as part of Officially Hitched; the collective she started. Rachael saw an unmet need: couples seeking officiants with contemporary sensibilities, of diverse backgrounds, and who were open-minded. As her success grew, more couples approached her than she could possibly serve. Rather than turn away these couples, Rachael decided to invite more officiants into the work. Together, we have created a diverse collective that serves couples throughout the Bay Area.

I feel this aspect of Rachael's life demonstrates her ability to pay attention to details while keeping her eye on the big picture. It shows that Rachael is committed to diversity and inclusiveness; she has worked with couples from all walks of life and helped ensure our collective is inclusive and diverse. Furthermore, Rachael listens carefully to the couples she serves. Rachael creates space for the couples and our team to speak openly and honestly.

Our city continues to go through challenges and in some areas we are in crisis. San

Francisco needs leaders who can listen, who can empathize, and who can create an atmosphere in which we can work together for a better future.

As a Black woman and mother, I have been so proud to have Rachael on the Planning Commission. She is an important representation of the Black community. While this is important, it's as important that she is prepared with the skills needed to efficiently, thoughtfully, and knowledgeable discharge the duties entrusted to her.

I urge you to support Rachael's nomination to the Planning Commission.

Sincerely,

Renesha Westerfield
(909) 568-1043



The OMI
Cultural Participation
Project

OMI CULTURAL PARTICIPATION PROJECT

209 OCEAN AVENUE · SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94112 · (415) 729-3658

September 18th, 2022

San Francisco Board of Supervisors
Attn: Rules Committee
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, Room 244
San Francisco, CA 94102

Re: Letter of Support for Planning Commission Nominee, Rachael Tanner

My name is Maurice Rivers, and I'm the executive director of the OMI Cultural Participation Project. I'm a District 11 lifelong resident, and active in the San Francisco Black community.

I'm writing to express my strong support for the appointment of Rachael Tanner to the San Francisco Planning Commission.

I work hard every day building community. Every day, I am reminded of our small but resilient Black community in San Francisco. Over the past decades, San Francisco's Black population has dwindled. Now we are just 5% of the population, and yet our contributions to this city's past and it's present outshine our population.

Over and over again, San Francisco has committed and recommitted itself to serving our community. Part of that commitment lies in ensuring that our community has a seat at the decision-making table. Having a commissioner connected to our community is critical. Having a planning commissioner who can pursue equity, equality, and social justice not just because it's a trend but because it affects her life is imperative.

As the Rules Committee and Board of Supervisors continue to advocate for progress in our city, I ask that you ensure the Black community remains part of that progress. Ensure that our community has a seat at the table.

Over the past nearly 2 years on the Commission, Rachael has demonstrated that she has the qualifications, training, skills, and aptitude to serve the residents of San Francisco. Please allow her to continue her service.

I urge you to support her nomination to the Planning Commission. Thank you for your time and consideration.

With best regards,

From: [Anietie Ekanem](#)
To: [Peskin, Aaron \(BOS\)](#); [MandelmanStaff, \[BOS\]](#); [ChanStaff \(BOS\)](#)
CC: [Young, Victor \(BOS\)](#); [Mar, Gordon \(BOS\)](#); [Dorsey, Matt \(BOS\)](#); [MelgarStaff \(BOS\)](#); [Ronen, Hillary](#); [Preston, Dean \(BOS\)](#); [Stefani, Catherine \(BOS\)](#); [Safai, Ahsha \(BOS\)](#); [Walton, Shamann \(BOS\)](#); rachael.tanner.work@gmail.com
Subject: Letter of Support for Planning Commission Nominee, Rachael Tanner
Date: Monday, September 19, 2022 5:04:23 AM

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September 19, 2022

San Francisco Board of Supervisors
ATTN: Rules Committee

To: Aaron.Peskin@sfgov.org; mandelmanstaff@sfgov.org; ChanStaff@sfgov.org

CC: Victor.Young@sfgov.org; Gordon.Mar@sfgov.org; Matt.Dorsey@sfgov.org;
MelgarStaff@sfgov.org; Hillary.Ronen@sfgov.org; Dean.Preston@sfgov.org;
Catherine.Stefani@sfgov.org; Ahsha.Safai@sfgov.org; Shamann.Walton@sfgov.org;
rachael.tanner.work@gmail.com

RE: Letter of Support for Planning Commission Nominee, Rachael Tanner

Dear Members of the Board of Supervisors,

My name is Anietie Ekanem. I am a District 10 Resident, business owner, and have served my community by being part of numerous community groups and San Francisco committees. I was the D10 representative and the chair of the SFPUC CAC. I currently am a member of the SF African-American Reparations Advisory Committee and chair the Economic Empowerment sub committee.

I am writing to express my strong support for the appointment of Rachael Tanner to the San Francisco Planning Commission.

I initially met Rachael when we were neighbors here in the Bayview. She and her partner invited neighbors into their home to build a sense of community and connection. Since that time, I have had the opportunity to invite Rachael to visit the Reparations Subcommittee that I chair. She, along with staff from the Planning Department, shared the progress of the Housing Element to that date and sought feedback from the committee regarding the most important policies to pursue. The conversation was sincere, direct, and I can imagine not always comfortable for the commissioner and planning staff. Rachael does more than give lip service to pursuing equity: she rolls up her sleeves and does the work of listening to the

community and translating the vision and needs into policy.

As a Commissioner, Rachael has shown herself to be a thoughtful and engaged Commissioner. She works hard to listen to all the voices that come before the Commission. She combines compassion, understanding of the regulatory framework, a head for good policy, and a love of the city to make comments, motions, and decisions that are in the best interest of San Francisco.

I urge you to support her nomination to return to the Planning Commission.

*In solidarity,
Anietie Ekanem*



September 19, 2022

San Francisco Board of Supervisors
ATTN: Rules Committee

To: Aaron.Peskin@sfgov.org; mandelmanstaff@sfgov.org; ChanStaff@sfgov.org

CC: Victor.Young@sfgov.org; Gordon.Mar@sfgov.org; Matt.Dorsey@sfgov.org;
MelgarStaff@sfgov.org; Hillary.Ronen@sfgov.org; Dean.Preston@sfgov.org;
Catherine.Stefani@sfgov.org; Ahsha.Safai@sfgov.org;
Shamann.Walton@sfgov.org; rachael.tanner.work@gmail.com

Dear Members of the Board of Supervisors,

My name is Randal Seriguchi, Jr. I am the Executive Director of Urban Ed Academy. **I am writing in strong support of Rachael Tanner's nomination to the Planning Commission.**

Through my work at Urban Ed, I am tackling education as the civil rights issues of our time. I look at education through a holistic lens that sees the interconnection of the quality of our education, transportation, and food systems. In this context, our neighborhoods directly impact the success of our students and their ability to compete in a 21st century global economy.

It is imperative that Planning Commissioners consider the holistic impacts of their decisions on students, children, and their families. I am confident that Ms. Tanner will bring that perspective to the Planning Commission. She will use her position to hold the department accountable to meeting their stated goal to center racial and social equity in planning processes.

I've known Rachael since the early 2000s. Together, she and I worked to defeat a ballot proposition that aimed to make affirmative action illegal in the state of Michigan; we were both undergraduate students at that time. The experience we shared profoundly impacted our lives. Setting me on a trajectory to continue fighting for civil rights. **I am proud to know Rachael and enthusiastically support her nomination.**



Rachael is eminently qualified to serve on the San Francisco Planning Commission. She brings her deep professional planning knowledge built through formal education and by serving local governments throughout California--in the cities of Long Beach, San Francisco, and Palo Alto.

Her expertise extends beyond understanding the tools of planning, she is a practitioner. She is a skilled listener, who has spent countless hours engaging the community. From working as a community organizer to serving the public as a city employee, she is out in the community listening, learning, and making herself available.

Lastly, the Black community needs a seat at the table. Representation matters. Urban Ed Academy has an express goal to have one Black male teacher in every elementary school in the city. We work to properly invest in a set of teacher supports necessary to make this a reality. It's important that the Rules Committee and Board of Supervisors ensure our Planning Commission represents the diversity of our city. There are no Black San Franciscans on the Planning Commission--and few Black planners employed by the Department. **How can a department with limited representation claim to center racial and social equity, and especially the Black community, without a member of the Black community at the table?**

I urge you to support Rachael's nomination to the Planning Commission.

Sincerely,
Randy Seriguchi, Jr., Esq.

Executive Director | Urban Ed Academy
(p): 415.330.1015 | (c): 732.500.3504

From: [Devanshu Patel](#)
To: [Peskin, Aaron \(BOS\)](#); [MandelmanStaff, \[BOS\]](#); [ChanStaff \(BOS\)](#)
Cc: [Young, Victor \(BOS\)](#); [Mar, Gordon \(BOS\)](#); [Dorsey, Matt \(BOS\)](#); [MelgarStaff \(BOS\)](#); [Ronen, Hillary](#); [Preston, Dean \(BOS\)](#); [Stefani, Catherine \(BOS\)](#); [Safai, Ahsha \(BOS\)](#); [Walton, Shamann \(BOS\)](#); Rachael.Tanner.Work@gmail.com
Subject: Letter of Support for Planning Commission Nominee Rachael Tanner
Date: Thursday, September 15, 2022 5:49:41 PM

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Dear Members of the Board of Supervisors,

My name is Devanshu Patel. My family and I live in District 10. I am also the chair of the Bayview CAC.

I am writing to support Rachael Tanner's nomination to the San Francisco Planning Commission.

I first met Rachael when the Planning Department and the SFCTA considered the location of a new Caltrain station in the Bayview. As a Caltrain rider and Bayview resident, the location of this station is incredibly important to me. Sadly, the outreach to our CAC from the Planning Department came very late in the process. As president of the Commission, Rachael responded by meeting with myself and other CAC members, hearing the concerns, and working to host another community outreach meeting.

She spent further time attending the meeting, hosting other meetings with community members, and taking a walking tour of the potential rail stops with other members of the community. Rachael is a hands-on commissioner who is actively engaged--not passively sitting behind the dais and is seeking the best solutions for the greater community. She is the kind of thoughtful partner our city's neighborhoods need.

I urge you to support Rachael's nomination to the Planning Commission.

Sincerely,

Devanshu Patel
Chair Bayview CAC and District 10 resident

From: [Michael Kaplan](#)
To: [MandelmanStaff](#), [JBOS](#); [ChanStaff](#) (BOS); [Peskin, Aaron](#) (BOS)
Cc: [Young, Victor](#) (BOS); [Mar, Gordon](#) (BOS); [Dorsey, Matt](#) (BOS); [MelgarStaff](#) (BOS); [Ronen, Hillary](#); [Preston, Dean](#) (BOS); [Stefani, Catherine](#) (BOS); [Safai, Ahsha](#) (BOS); [Walton, Shamann](#) (BOS); [Karen Tang](#)
Subject: Letter of Support for Planning Commission Nominee, Rachael Tanner
Date: Wednesday, September 14, 2022 10:24:53 PM

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Dear Members of the Board of Supervisors,

This letter comes from Michael Kaplan and Karen Tang, we are residents and parents in District 2.

We are writing to express our strong support for the reappointment of Rachael Tanner to the San Francisco Planning Commission.

We've known Rachael for over a decade. She's passionate, hardworking, and really believes in good government! We often talk about policies being debated by the city, curious to know how our city and its leaders will chart a way forward. Further, I (Mike) work in affordable housing development and know the uphill battle our city and state face when it comes to building more affordable housing. I also know that having a commission that supports efforts to efficiently entitle affordable housing is incredibly important to getting housing built faster and more cost effectively.

As a commissioner, Rachael has demonstrated her commitment to building more affordable housing to serve San Franciscans. I know she'll continue to seek new ways to advance more homes that San Franciscans can afford. As residents with fine-paying jobs, the fact that it is nearly impossible for us to purchase a home in this city speaks to the fact that we fall drastically short of building enough housing to satisfy the needs and budgets of most of our residents.

We urge you to support her nomination to the Planning Commission, thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Michael Kaplan and Karen Tang

From: [Erica Simmons](#)
To: [Peskin, Aaron \(BOS\)](#); [MandelmanStaff, \[BOS\]](#); [ChanStaff \(BOS\)](#)
CC: [Young, Victor \(BOS\)](#); [Mar, Gordon \(BOS\)](#); [Dorsey, Matt \(BOS\)](#); [MelgarStaff \(BOS\)](#); [Ronen, Hillary](#); [Preston, Dean \(BOS\)](#); [Stefani, Catherine \(BOS\)](#); [Safai, Ahsha \(BOS\)](#); [Walton, Shamann \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Letter of support for the appointment of Rachael Tanner to the San Francisco Planning Commission
Date: Friday, September 16, 2022 7:16:19 PM

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September 19, 2022

San Francisco Board of Supervisors
ATTN: Rules Committee

To: Aaron.Peskin@sfgov.org; mandelmanstaff@sfgov.org; ChanStaff@sfgov.org

CC: Victor.Young@sfgov.org; Gordon.Mar@sfgov.org; Matt.Dorsey@sfgov.org;
MelgarStaff@sfgov.org; Hillary.Ronen@sfgov.org; Dean.Preston@sfgov.org;
Catherine.Stefani@sfgov.org; Ahsha.Safai@sfgov.org; Shamann.Walton@sfgov.org;

Dear Members of the Board of Supervisors,

My name is Erica Simmons. My husband and I live in Bernal Heights, in District 9.

I am writing to express my strong support for the appointment of Rachael Tanner to the San Francisco Planning Commission.

I met Rachael through graduate school, where we both studied City Planning. This summer, Rachael was scheduled to officiate our wedding, but alas! COVID struck and she was unable to perform. But that didn't stop her from helping. She jumped on Zoom and trained two back up officiants--my close friends--and worked to make sure they were ready to step in. Which they did, with flying colors.

While that story may seem unrelated to planning specifically, it speaks to Rachael's character. She doesn't just take on a project casually, she really commits to seeing it through--even if there is a hiccup or an unexpected turn. That certainly happens in public service and in land use planning; things suddenly going a different direction.

I know that Rachael has the planning skills to do the job, but more importantly she is the kind of person who does a job well.

I also know that Rachael is an urbanite. She takes transit. She bikes. She lives in multifamily housing. She really is part of the city's urban core--because she likes it. She can help our city as we build more homes, ensuring that we don't lose what makes San Francisco great and that we continue to have livable neighborhoods as we grow.

I urge you to support her nomination to the Planning Commission.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Erica Simmons
San Francisco District 9 Resident
(650) 387-4239