

**From:** [Board of Supervisors, \(BOS\)](#)  
**To:** [BOS-Supervisors](#)  
**Cc:** [Young, Victor \(BOS\)](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Regarding Nominee to Police Commission - Malia Cohen  
**Date:** Monday, August 17, 2020 3:46:36 PM

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**From:** Julie Traun <jtraun@sfbar.org>  
**Sent:** Monday, August 17, 2020 1:00 PM  
**To:** Board of Supervisors, (BOS) <board.of.supervisors@sfgov.org>  
**Subject:** Regarding Nominee to Police Commission - Malia Cohen

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Dear President Yee, Supervisors Haney, Mandelman, Mar, Peskin, Preston, Fewer, Ronen, Safai, Stefani, and Walton:

My name is Julie Traun; I am an attorney, long time resident of San Francisco, and active member of the Bar Association of San Francisco's Criminal Justice Task Force (CJTF) formed after the killing of Michael Brown in Ferguson. Our CJTF includes prosecutors, defense counsel, civil rights attorneys, representatives from DPA, law enforcement (SFPD and SFSD) academia as well as the Superior Court and Federal bench.

Our goal is to assist law enforcement achieve 21<sup>st</sup> Century policing. As lawyers, we volunteer our skillset to arm ourselves with the research and best practices throughout the country to help assure this City that we have access to what is most needed in order to reach our shared goals for policing.

Our independent voice and thorough research contributed greatly to the 2016 Use of Force Policy, led us to oppose Prop H and Tasers, and our detailed Data Collection and Analysis report mirrored the recommendations of the DOJ. We filed a strong amicus brief in support of the Use of Force policy when the POA challenged the Police Commission's work. Our work is vetted by the Bar Association of San Francisco's board of directors prior to issuing studies, reports and/or recommendations as well as amicus briefing on behalf of this large and diverse legal organization of nearly 8,000 members.

Our hardworking and committed CJTF members participate on each of the 5 Executive Sponsor Working Groups (ESWG) established under the COPS DOJ. I sit on three of those groups: Use of Force, Bias and Community Policing.

We are so mindful of events preceding and following the killing of George Floyd, and while we appreciate the work underway with SFPD, we have far to more to do.

There has *never* been a more important time to add commissioners who are knowledgeable and have demonstrated a commitment to reform by their actions and their capacity to move us forward. Historically, the Commission itself has fallen short on its obligations to keep up with research and stay current with reform. This is a complex undertaking and at this critical time, there is a clear need for informed commissioners.

This Bar Association is invested and concerned; we ask our Supervisors and our Mayor to assure all San Franciscans that *any* nominee to the Commission has a demonstrated commitment to effective police reform and is thoroughly informed by the research and the state of policing locally and beyond. Each nominee must demonstrate that he or she is a strong and informed steward to bring us into compliance with 21<sup>st</sup> Century policing and the recommended reforms enumerated more than 4 years ago by COPS DOJ. Changing police culture takes strong leadership by those well versed in reform and the research supporting it.

We are pleased that the Mayor has nominated Malia Cohen to the Commission who worked closely with many of our subcommittees of the Criminal Justice Task Force to assure reform for SFPD. Specifically, she worked with us on Use of Force General Order 5.01, publicly defending the critical role of the Commission when criticized by the POA; she supported our work on data collection and analysis, understanding that the collection of data is meaningless in the absence of analysis by outside experts; she worked with our body-worn camera subcommittee to require implementation, as well as our police oversight committee to greatly improve oversight and accountability; finally, she worked closely with our Taser subcommittee to defeat Proposition H. She

was a featured panelist on BASF's widely viewed presentation on Police Reform and Changing Police Culture. <https://vimeo.com/219882282>.

These important and informed contributions to police reform in San Francisco will benefit the work of the Police Commission going forward and for these reasons, we are so pleased with this nomination.

Very truly yours,

Julie

Julie Traun  
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**From:** [Karen Fleshman](#)  
**To:** [Young, Victor \(BOS\)](#); [Ronen, Hillary](#); [Mar, Gordon \(BOS\)](#); [Stefani, Catherine \(BOS\)](#)  
**Cc:** [Cohen, Malia](#)  
**Subject:** statement in support of the Honorable Malia Cohen's appointment to the Police Commission  
**Date:** Monday, August 17, 2020 12:34:44 PM

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Dear Supervisors Ronen, Mar, and Stefani,

I was unable to stay on the Rules Committee meeting as I had a call at 11 am.

I would like to speak in support of Malia Cohen's appointment to the Police Commission.

When SFPD executed Mario Woods in 2015, I became active in police accountability. Supervisor Cohen was the most present, compassionate, and active Supervisor. She was the only Supervisor who regularly attended Police Commission meetings. She organized quarterly hearings to keep the heat on SFPD to implement the USDOJ recommendations. When she left, the Supervisors stopped having the hearings,

Malia Cohen feels the pain of mothers of people killed by police. She is unafraid to stand up to the POA. She knows all the officials in SF and Sacramento. She is an ideal candidate for the Police Commission. I support her wholeheartedly and I urge you to, too.

Sincerely,

--

Karen Fleshman, Esq. she hers, Founder



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"The role of the artist is exactly the same as the role of the lover. If I love you, I have to make you conscious of the things you don't see."

- James Baldwin

## Patrick Monette-Shaw

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August 13, 2020

Rules Committee, Board of Supervisors  
The Honorable Hillary Ronen, Chair  
The Honorable Catherine Stefani, Member  
The Honorable Gordon Mar, Member  
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place  
San Francisco, CA 94102

**Re: Agenda Item 5 Testimony: Appointment to Police Commission (Cohen) — Strongly Support**

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Dear Chair Ronen and Members of the Rules Committee,

This is testimony for the Rules Committee meeting on August 17, 2020.

I strongly **support** the nomination of Malia Cohen to the Police Commission for the following reasons.

1. Malia served admirably as president of the Board of Supervisors, and was always thoughtful.
2. She served as President of the SFERS Board of Trustees, and supported several transparency initiatives, including supporting budgeting to broadcast SFERS Board meetings on SFGOV-TV, and agreeing to comply with provisions of the Sunshine Ordinance to place written 150-word testing in meeting minutes adjacent to discussion of a given agenda item, among other accomplishments benefiting City retirees.
3. Ms. Cohen's leadership developing the legislation to create the *Department of Police Accountability*, elimination of SFPD's use of the carotid hold, banning *stop-and-frisk*, and revising SFPD's *Use of Force* policy all demonstrate she has a superior grasp of issues involving SFPD.
4. Her leadership in many areas have strengthened the *Black Lives Matter* movement, for which all San Franciscans should be eternally grateful for.
5. The Department on the Status of Women's 2019 report on gender equity on City boards and commissions reported that women comprise only 43% of Police Commissioners. Appointing Malia to this Commission would go a long way toward rectifying gender and racial equity on the Police Commission.

As justifiable nationwide efforts to defund and re-imagine Police Departments rightfully intensifies, Ms. Cohen's fiscal experience suggests she will prudently consider the financials behind doing so in San Francisco. San Franciscans desperately need her leadership on, and appointment to, this Commission.

I urge the Rules Committee to vote unanimously to approve Ms. Cohen's nomination, and forward a strong recommendation to the full Board of Supervisors urging approval of her nomination.

Respectfully submitted,

**Patrick Monette-Shaw**

*Columnist*

*Westside Observer* Newspaper

cc: The Honorable Sandra Lee Fewer, Supervisor, District 1  
The Honorable Aaron Peskin, Supervisor, District 3  
The Honorable Dean Preston, Supervisor, District 5  
The Honorable Matt Haney, Supervisor, District 6  
The Honorable Norman Yee, Supervisor, District 7  
The Honorable Rafael Mandelman, Supervisor, District 8  
The Honorable Shamann Walton, Supervisor, District 10  
The Honorable Ahsha Safai, Supervisor, District 11  
Victor Young, Clerk of the Rules Committee  
Carolyn Goossen, Legislative Aide to Supervisor Hillary Ronen  
Lee Hepner, Legislative Aide to Supervisor Aaron Peskin