

January 4, 2024

Society of Professional Journalists Northern California Chapter

San Francisco, CA

www.spjnorcal.org



San Francisco Board of Supervisors Rules Committee

Honorable Matt Dorsey

Honorable Shamann Walton

Honorable Ahsha Safai

Dear supervisors,

The Society of Professional Journalists, Northern California Chapter ("SPJ NorCal") is pleased to nominate Ankita Mukhopadhyay for appointment to the City's Sunshine Ordinance Task Force.

For more than a decade, Ms. Mukhopadhyay has dedicated herself to the journalism profession in pursuit of open access to government. For proof of that, look no further than her time reporting for the outlet Deutsche Welle's India bureau. The country ranks no. 161 out of 180 countries in the 2023 World Press Freedom Index, according to Reporters Without Borders, a place where the government has pushed back on the right to a free press.

The open Sunshine Ordinance Task Force seat in question was historically appointed by New American Media, with an eye toward journalists who have covered diverse communities. Given her experience reporting on South Asian communities, as well as communities in Chicago and here locally, we feel Ms. Mukhopadhyay is well-suited for this role.

Ms. Mukhopadhyay's experience as an academic obtaining her Masters of Science in history, as well as journalism, also gives her the necessary research experience to comb through the copious documentation that is required of Sunshine Ordinance Task Force members.

Ms. Mukhopadhyay now serves as the Society of Professional Journalists regional coordinator, seeing her act as a liaison between our chapters in Hawaii, Nevada, California, and other western chapters. She has flourished in her new role, showing the chops needed to work with Sunshine Ordinance Task Force members as a team.

We strongly urge you to consider Ms. Mukhopadhyay's nomination and forward her appointment to the full Board. Thank you for your time, and your commitment to government transparency.

In solidarity,

Joe Fitzgerald Rodriguez, SPJ NorCal Chapter President

Ida Mojada, SPJ NorCal Chapter Vice President