



December 9, 2021

San Francisco Police Commission

1245 3rd St.

San Francisco, CA 94158

Commissioners,

Please accept this enthusiastic letter in support of Jesus Yanez's application for a seat on the Police Commission. My name is Susana Rojas and I am the Executive Director of Calle 24 Latino Cultural District. Calle 24 is a community serving organization whose mission is to preserve, enhance and advocate for Latino cultural continuity, vitality, and community in San Francisco's touchstone Latino Cultural District and the greater Mission neighborhood.

Jesus is a long-time community advocate and has incessantly worked in the interests of the community and youth, as member of the Community Response Network, CRN, Care Development Committee and A Roadmap to Peace, RTP, Initiative Steering Committee. These community driven projects have led to tangible progress and developments for marginalized youth dealing with mental health issues and those in the juvenile system.

I wholeheartedly believe in Jesus Yanez's experience and perspective in addressing the systemic issues in our communities with processes that reflect the values of our community.

Susana Rojas

Executive Director

Calle 24 Latino Cultural District

December 9th, 2021

RE: Support Letter for Jesus Yanez for Appointment to SF Police Commission

Dear Honorable Members of the San Francisco Board of Supervisors,

I am writing this letter to support the candidacy of Jesus Yanez to the SF Police Commission. Jesus Yanez has been my co-worker, in community, for the past 20 years. We never worked in the same department, but our work always crossed paths. Since the day I met Jesus, he was always passionate about our youth, the big picture of why our youth, our people were in the predicaments they were in and the criminal justice system. He received his training the same place I did at the Real Alternatives Program in the Mission district. Through two decades I have witnessed his hard work, passion and his caring way he has given to my community. We would do outreach on Friday nights to work with the youth of the Mission to check-in, support and divert from the streets. I also spent a lot of time with Jesus when we went to national conferences on violence prevention and the criminal justice system as we visited cities we had never experienced before. We bonded over those moments and I really got to know Jesus.

I was born and raised in San Francisco. I have two Masters in Education and English. It is seldom that I see someone not from my community be as passionate and as intellectual as Jesus and still be from a neighborhood similar to mine from Los Angeles. Even though he does not have higher degrees, his mind is at a higher degree. We have had many conversations about San Francisco, the community and the politics of our city. When we sit and we talk, I am always fascinated by the wealth of knowledge Jesus has. His wealth of knowledge does not come from a degree, but from his 20+ years of advocacy, his love of reading and his life experiences, which come from not having a lot, to valuing what is really important in life and problem solving. He is an avid reader and can process information very quickly. He always sends me numerous articles so we can have conversations on certain topics that he knows are of interest to us. He is truly one of the smartest men I know. Yet more importantly, he knows how to look at all sides, he might not agree with all sides, but he can relate to the poverty or violence that is happening in our society, our neighborhoods and also the side that has to deal with all the issues. And the most fascinating thing is that most people complain a lot, I feel Jesus is more interested in the solution.

It is very important to me that someone that looks like me, someone that understands the struggles and someone who looks for solutions sits on the SF Police Commission. I am taking my time from my busy schedule to sit and write this letter to recommend but also appreciate Jesus Yanez for the work he has done in our community. I think he will be an excellent Police Commissioner. He will not always go with the flow, but he will do what's right and that's exactly what I would want for such a high and prestigious position.

Thank you for your consideration. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to email at osornoj@sfusd.edu.

Sincerely,

Jaime Osorno
Head Counselor
Downtown High School, San Francisco, CA



THE BAR ASSOCIATION OF SAN FRANCISCO

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Yolanda M. Jackson

December 9, 2021

Attn: Victor Young
Office of the Clerk of the Board, Rules Committee
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place
City Hall, Room 244
San Francisco, CA 94102-4689

To Members of the Rules Committee:

The Bar Association of San Francisco (BASF) formed the Criminal Justice Task Force (CJTF) in 2015 in the wake of Ferguson and the killing of Michael Brown. A group of dedicated defense attorneys, prosecutors, civil rights attorneys, representatives from the San Francisco Police Department, Sheriff's Department, Department of Police Accountability, Superior Court, Federal Court, and Federal Pre-Trial Services have worked tirelessly to inform us on best police and criminal justice practices and our CJTF has assisted our Police Commission and other agencies in countless ways over the last six years.

Our CJTF members have been included on every working group formed by SFPD in response to the Department of Justice's recommendations to SFPD. But our work extends beyond the working groups as well. BASF does not take a position without first undertaking the research and debating the pros and cons of any position. Our work cannot be accomplished without hard working, fully informed legal research and opinions of our CJTF; the work of this Task Force is invaluable, not just to BASF but to the City as a whole.

We are grateful that so many dedicated volunteer attorneys, like David Rizk, have contributed to the important work undertaken by San Francisco to achieve police reform and criminal justice reform. David joined the CJTF in 2016 and has served as one of our most active and informed members; and he has now applied for a seat on the Police Commission. We write as an organization to inform you of our full support of David Rizk for Seat 3 on the Police commission. We join with Petra DeJesus who held this seat for so long and so well, in this recommendation of David.

David holds both a Master's in Public Policy as well as a JD from Stanford Law School. Early in his career, David worked at the Electronic Frontier Foundation, a San Francisco non-profit that advocates for civil liberties in the online and technology fields. Later, he clerked for two federal judges and then entered private practice at the Kecker, Van Nest, & Peters law firm, handling matters such as innocence and civil rights cases involving excessive force.

While at the Kecker firm, David joined our CJTF and volunteered to draft a key amicus brief in the matter of San Francisco Police Officers Association vs. San Francisco Police Commission (A151654) on behalf of BASF. He worked tirelessly with the City Attorney's office and the ACLU to research and write this important brief. There is no doubt that the reasoning of the successful outcome to this court of appeal decision rested considerably on BASF's amicus brief and David's contributions. The Commission's forward-thinking Use of Force Policy subsequently served as the model for statewide reform and of course, that would not have been possible without a successful outcome in the court of appeal.



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Commencing in 2016, David also served as a member and subsequently as chair of the civilian board overseeing BART police and worked to draft new use of force policies resulting in a reduction in use of force incidents. Because of his role with BART, he is fully experienced with misconduct cases and departmental policy and the importance of the community voice.

David's work with SFPD and the Police Commission has occurred primarily through the BASF's CJTF. He has collaborated with command staff at SFPD, the DPA, Public Defender Office, the Sheriff's Department, the District Attorney's Office, and the Police Commission, to bring about informed police reform and durable policy. His work is always thorough, reliable, and important to any position taken by our Board and he has served as an important resource to the Police Commission and SFPD. He served as BASF's member on the Police Commission's Tasers Working Group, as well SFPD's Executive Working Group on Use of Force. Through the Task Force, he has worked on most of the key issues the Police Commission has addressed in recent years: use of force reforms, bias free policing, body worn cameras, data collection, community policing, collective bargaining practices, and SFPD's progress in adopting the U.S. Department of Justice's reform recommendations. He is sensitive to and regularly brings community concerns to our attention, regarding our non-citizens and communities of color who are too often negatively impacted by law enforcement.

He has worked directly with many Commissioners over the years as well as Supervisors and City Attorneys about these issues, and written dozens of letters and position papers to provide decision-makers with research and policy advice. He worked with Board President Norman Yee on the Charter Amendment mandating that police staffing levels be set not via an artifact of the 1980s enshrined into law in the 1990s, but through an actual data-driven process. He also worked with Supervisor Hillary Ronen by providing legal research on the role of the meet and confer process on General Orders authored by the Police commission. He assisted in drafting two letters to Mayor Breed outlining the importance of police reform and how police reform should factor into her selection of the next City Attorney. He worked with community stakeholders and immigration specialists concerning arrests of non-citizens in the Tenderloin. Most recently, on behalf of the CJTF, he has assisted the Commission and the Police Department by providing extensive, detailed proposed revisions to SFPD's Departmental General Order 5.16. More broadly, he also chairs the CJTF's Bail Subcommittee and has been a strong advocate for San Francisco Pretrial for years, working with all of the justice partners.

As a federal public defender David understands the criminal justice system as a litigator—but also, and more importantly, from the community's perspective; he is a strong advocate for community, especially communities of color as his work is driven by advocacy for communities of color. He is a San Francisco native and long-time resident, so he understands the City and its various neighborhoods and communities intimately.

David's commitment to working collaboratively with all justice partners to provide informed and well-reasoned research is well known by all of us. We fully support his application and we will be very sorry to lose him as one of our most active and valued members of the CJTF but we are so pleased that his important working knowledge can now be directly useful to the Police Commission and the City as whole.

In sum, we are well aware of the complexity of the work of the Police Commission. We strongly support his application to serve on the Police Commission.

Very truly yours,

Yolanda Jackson

Executive Director and General Counsel of the Bar Association of San Francisco