

Supervisor Shamann Walton
Legislative Aide Tracy Gallardo
City Hall
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, Room 244
San Francisco, Ca. 94102-4689

July 9th, 2023

Dear Supervisor Shamann Walton and Legislative Aide Tracy Gallardo,

We oppose the Building Inspection Commission nominations of Raquel Bito and Bianca Neumann due to their lack of support for the community. During the recent city budget process, Commissioners Bito and Neumann minimized and dismissed the importance of the Code Enforcement Outreach Program and SRO Collaboratives to improve tenant housing habitability.

We are in support of Building Inspection Commission Alysabeth Alexander-Tut who supports the needs of tenants who are an important stakeholder in the Department of Building Inspection.

Sincerely,
Causa Justa :: Just Cause
Housing Rights Committee of San Francisco



07/10/2023

SRO Families United Collaborative

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Chinatown Community development Center
Chinese Progressive Association
Coalition on Homelessness
Dolores Street Community Services
South of Market Community Action Network

Esteemed members of the Rules Committee,

We, the SRO Families United Collaborative write you in opposition to the confirmation of Raquel Bito and Bianca Neumann to the Building Inspection Commission (*BIC*).

The BIC oversees a critical City Department that touches nearly all San Francisco Residents' homes. From flowing water through unleaded pipes, crisp ocean breeze through adequate windows, and the hearth that is modern heating systems. It is often that SRO Hotels and other similar "last option" housing for immigrant and very low-income families, do not have constant adequate flowing water in the shared bathrooms, and may end up choosing between the ocean breeze or a warm room, when there may not be adequate heating and ventilation.

The Collaborative provides Code Enforcement, other direct services, and opportunities to leave the SRO for affordable housing opportunities to SRO families in the City, through partners' offices in SOMA, Tenderloin, Chinatown, the Mission Districts. These services, which primarily include code enforcement, are provided by culturally and linguistically competent peer organizers.

Disinterest in seeing SRO Families:

Raquel Bito and Bianca Neumann rejected or ignored invitations by the Collaborative to visit SROs and SRO families early 2023. Multiple attempts were made to encourage the commissioners to see first-hand how these families lived, and of the critical role the Collaborative plays in the communities served. Failing to visit SROs is a disservice to all the families, seniors, veterans, individuals with disabilities that call a unit in an SRO home.

Disinterest in Listening to SRO Families:

During the June 21st, 2023, BIC hearing, many SRO families attended to voice their plea to retain the Collaborative budget as part of DBI's budget. During this hearing, several commissioners appeared to be distracted and not committing fully to listening to the families' testimonies. This level of disrespect or indifference is unacceptable. As president of the BIC, commissioner Raquel Bito should have reminded her colleagues to refrain from distractions.

The Commission cannot be representative of the People of San Francisco when both these commissioners show no interest in dialoguing with community, show no connection with the City they represent and when both of them remained completely unreachable, uncommunicative and uninterested during the toughest Budget the department has faced in the last 15 years.

Sincerely,

The SRO Families United Collaborative