

Member, Board of Supervisors
District 2



City and County of San Francisco

CATHERINE STEFANI

Dear Chair of the Budget and Finance Committee,

Thank you for all the work you and your staff have done on this year's budget. Your efforts to create an open and transparent process have allowed our communities to become part of the budget discussions, and I commend you for your leadership.

After review of the spending plan, I am happy to see priority policy areas such as homelessness and public health addressed in the draft. There are many more areas I would like to support, but I understand that there are limited available funds. As we discuss these matters in Committee, I would like to address policies I believe should receive more support.

- San Francisco is fortunate to have accessible open space in each supervisorial district. A number of these spaces enjoy support from their communities, but many more are underutilized and unkempt. These free public spaces can create stronger and safer communities – but only by working in partnership with City departments and organizations to reactivate and reengage the neighborhoods around them.
- We have historically taken care of our veterans and provided them with proper support to make sure that they are cared for in San Francisco. Unfortunately, many of our honored veterans are homeless and lack access to appropriate care. In funding veterans' services, we can provide care to those who have served our country.
- The recent difficulty of securing grants from the DCYF's Five-Year Cycle has led to a number of organizations' being underfunded. Many of these community organizations rely on the DCYF grants. I hope the Committee considers funding organizations that provide needed support to early childhood education in underserved communities.
- The Board of Supervisors has recently taken action to support those who have been victims of sexual assault and domestic violence, but City government can't take the lead on these issues alone. We are blessed to have community-based organizations who have been working on these issues for years, and we need the additional support so that one day these hateful crimes never happen again.
- Since 1976 we have funded the Pretrial Diversion Program under the San Francisco Sheriff's Department. The Program is critical to our criminal justice system and needs additional funds to expand in light of recent court decisions that have placed a more substantial burden on the current staff load.

Again, Chair Cohen, I want to thank you for your leadership during this process and I look forward to a robust discussion with my colleagues on the Budget and Finance Committee, as well as the full Board of Supervisors.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Catherine Stefani". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "C" and a long, sweeping underline.

Supervisor Catherine Stefani
San Francisco Board of Supervisors
District 2