

LEGISLATIVE DIGEST
(Revised in Committee 8/10/20)

[Administrative Code - Sunshine Ordinance Task Force Member Nominations]

Ordinance amending the Administrative Code to designate the Northern California Chapter of the Society of Professional Journalists as the nominating body with authority to recommend to the Board of Supervisors nominees to hold the seat on the Sunshine Ordinance Task Force designated for a journalist from a racial/ethnic-minority-owned news organization, and to modify the qualifications for that seat.

Existing Law

The City's Sunshine Ordinance establishes the Sunshine Ordinance Task Force, which advises the Board of Supervisors and other City departments on implementation of the Sunshine Ordinance. The Task Force consists of 11 voting members appointed by the Board of Supervisors at the recommendation of various organizations with established interests in government transparency. One member of the Task Force must be a journalist from a racial/ethnic-minority-owned news organization. That member must be nominated by an organization called New California Media.

In 2005, New California Media became New America Media ("NAM"), and NAM it continued to nominate members for possible appointment to the Task Force over the next 12 years. In 2017, NAM ceased all operations. NAM is no longer an active organization and is therefore unable to submit names of journalists to the Board for possible appointment to the Task Force.

Amendments to Current Law

The proposed ordinance would authorize the Northern California Chapter of the Society of Professional Journalists to nominate journalists for the seat described above that was previously nominated by New California Media and then by NAM. The ordinance would also modify the qualifications for the seat so it could be held by either a journalist from a racial/ethnic-minority-owned news organization, a journalist whose work focuses on issues impacting minority racial or ethnic communities, or a journalist who works with a media organization or publication whose target audience is a minority racial or ethnic community. The ordinance would broadly define the word "journalist" to include freelance journalists, photographers, and videographers.

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