

**From:** [Dylan Hirsch-Shell](#)  
**To:** [BOS-Appointments](#)  
**Cc:** [Young, Victor \(BOS\)](#)  
**Subject:** Letter of Support for Honest Charley Bodkin – Sunshine Ordinance Task Force, Seat #10  
**Date:** Thursday, February 20, 2025 5:54:16 PM

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Dear Members of the San Francisco Board of Supervisors,

I am writing to express my strong support for the appointment of Honest Charley Bodkin to Seat #10 on the Sunshine Ordinance Task Force. I have had the privilege of working closely with Charley and have seen firsthand his dedication to government transparency, public accountability, and civic engagement. His qualifications and experience make him an ideal candidate for this position.

Charley has demonstrated a deep and sustained interest in citizen access to local government. As Director of Operations for my 2024 mayoral campaign, he directly engaged with thousands of San Franciscans, helping to identify and address concerns about city governance, transparency, and accountability. His efforts in public outreach and voter engagement reflect his strong commitment to ensuring that all residents have access to clear and reliable information about their government.

Beyond his campaign work, Charley has a unique blend of experience in journalism, technology, and civic participation that is particularly well-suited for the Sunshine Ordinance Task Force. As a former data journalist and newsroom engineer for the Los Angeles Times, he contributed to Pulitzer Prize-winning coverage and has a deep understanding of how public records and transparency impact civic life. After leaving the LA Times, he was the co-founder and CTO of Yellow Brim, which worked with numerous media companies, including his former employer, Tribune Publishing, CalMatters, and Vox Media to improve the efficiency of journalists. His work in technology demonstrates his commitment to supporting the work of journalists and to enhancing the accessibility of public information.

Charley's personal dedication to transparency is evident in his independent journalism through The City & County, a platform he created to provide in-depth coverage of San Francisco's government and civic affairs. Additionally, he has firsthand experience navigating the Sunshine Ordinance process, having filed public records requests with multiple city departments and the State of California. His technical expertise in data engineering would bring valuable insight to the Task Force, helping to streamline public records request processing and improve public access to information.

Beyond his professional credentials, Charley is a committed community member. As a resident of Haight Ashbury neighborhood and an active member of the Haight Ashbury Neighborhood Council, he understands local concerns and the importance of government responsiveness. His involvement with organizations such as the United Democratic Club, SF YIMBY, and Refuse Refuse SF further underscores his commitment to civic participation and good governance.

San Francisco needs individuals like Honest Charley Bodkin on the Sunshine Ordinance Task Force—people who are not only passionate about transparency but also have the skills and experience to improve the system. His background in journalism, technology, and civic engagement makes him exceptionally well-qualified to serve. I urge you to give his application your full consideration.

Thank you for your time and attention. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or require further information.

Sincerely,

Dylan Hirsch-Shell  
Potrero Hill Resident, MIT Alum, Ex-Tesla Engineer, and 2024 Candidate for Mayor of San Francisco