

**From:** [Peter Kwan](#)  
**To:** [Peskin, Aaron \(BOS\)](#); [ChanStaff \(BOS\)](#); [MandelmanStaff, \[BOS\]](#); [Mar, Gordon \(BOS\)](#); [MelgarStaff \(BOS\)](#); [Preston, Dean \(BOS\)](#); [Ronen, Hillary](#); [Safai, Ahsha \(BOS\)](#); [Stefani, Catherine \(BOS\)](#); [Walton, Shamann \(BOS\)](#); [Young, Victor \(BOS\)](#); [Haney, Matt \(BOS\)](#)  
**Subject:** Subject: Oppose Charter Amendments that Subvert Voter Rights and Obliterate Separation of Powers  
**Date:** Tuesday, January 25, 2022 8:12:00 AM

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This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Dear Rules Committee Members and Supervisors,

I respectfully urge you to oppose several proposed Charter Amendments that subvert voters' rights, fundamentally distort the balance of power in San Francisco and create more gridlock in government.

Please oppose the anti-democratic overreach of items numbered 5 through 8 on the Rules Committee Agenda for January 24, 2022 at 9am:

- #5 211286 [Charter Amendment - Building Inspection Commission]
- #6 211285 [Charter Amendment - Split Appointment Authority for Boards and Commissions; Powers and Duties of the City Administrator]
- #7 211287 [Charter Amendment - Filling Vacancies in Elected Offices; Timelines for Recall Process]
- #8 211288 [Declaration of Policy and Charter Amendment - Fossil Fuel Disinvestment Policy; Retirement Board Membership]

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Rationale for each objection:

#5: 211286 [Charter Amendment - Building Inspection Commission]

I oppose this attempt to reallocate powers of the Mayor to the BOS.

#6: 211285 [Charter Amendment - Split Appointment Authority for Boards and Commissions; Powers and Duties of the City Administrator]

I oppose this attempt to remove checks & balances in City Hall, removing power from the Mayor, who is elected by all citizens and giving it to the Supervisors who are elected by 1/11th of voters. This results in fewer citizens having a say in the direction of the city and it would permanently consolidate control for the Board of Supervisors over the voters and the executive branch in a way that has never been done before in San Francisco.

#7: 211287 [Charter Amendment - Filling Vacancies in Elected Offices; Timelines for Recall Process]

This proposal is an attempt to elevate elected officials above the people. Elected officials should always be subject to voter oversight and the Proposed Amendment decimates the power of the recall as an avenue to make political change in extreme circumstances. This is a cynical political reaction to the current recall efforts. Any vote in favor of putting this on the ballot conveys a clear message that the official is more concerned with gaining power than with serving the people.

Since most Supervisors supported the recall of at least one BOE member, it is worth noting that if this amendment were in place now, and the BOE recalls are successful, the BOE itself would select replacements for Collins, Lopez, and Moliga. This would significantly decrease the impact of the recall.

This change to filling BOS vacancies makes no sense in that the 10 remaining Supervisors - none of

whom were elected by people in the vacant seat district - would select the new Supervisor for that district. The Mayor is elected citywide, and so it makes sense for the person in that position to fill the vacancy.

#8: 211288 [Declaration of Policy and Charter Amendment - Fossil Fuel Disinvestment Policy; Retirement Board Membership]

This is a smokescreen power-grab. The BOS has no control over retirement investments: they are determined at the State level. The BOS can declare support for Fossil Fuel divestment without an expensive ballot measure.

The amendment changes what branch of government has control over City Board appointments. I think the balance of power should stay as it is. Large cities need an executive (Mayor) who is accountable to ALL citizens.

Sincerely,

Peter Kwan  
District 3 resident and voter.

**From:** [Garry Tan](#)  
**To:** [Peskin, Aaron \(BOS\)](#); [ChanStaff \(BOS\)](#); [MandelmanStaff, \[BOS\]](#); [Mar, Gordon \(BOS\)](#); [MelgarStaff \(BOS\)](#); [Preston, Dean \(BOS\)](#); [Ronen, Hillary](#); [Safai, Ahsha \(BOS\)](#); [Stefani, Catherine \(BOS\)](#); [Walton, Shamann \(BOS\)](#); [Young, Victor \(BOS\)](#); [soard1.2020@gmail.com](mailto:soard1.2020@gmail.com); [Haney, Matt \(BOS\)](#)  
**Subject:** Oppose Charter Amendments that Subvert Voter Rights and Obliterate Separation of Powers  
**Date:** Tuesday, January 25, 2022 11:34:29 PM

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Dear Rules Committee Members and Supervisors,

I respectfully urge you to oppose several proposed Charter Amendments that subvert voters' rights, fundamentally distort the balance of power in San Francisco and create more gridlock in government.

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Sincerely,

**GARRY TAN** | Managing Partner | [Initialized Capital](#)  
New episodes every week @ [youtube.com/garrytan](https://www.youtube.com/garrytan)

**From:** [Richard Leider](#)  
**To:** [Peskin, Aaron \(BOS\)](#); [ChanStaff \(BOS\)](#); [MandelmanStaff, \[BOS\]](#); [Mar, Gordon \(BOS\)](#); [MelgarStaff \(BOS\)](#); [Preston, Dean \(BOS\)](#); [Ronen, Hillary](#); [Safai, Ahsha \(BOS\)](#); [Stefani, Catherine \(BOS\)](#); [Shamann.Walton@sfgov.org](mailto:Shamann.Walton@sfgov.org); [Young, Victor \(BOS\)](#); [matthaney@sfgov.org](mailto:matthaney@sfgov.org)  
**Cc:** [Richard Leider](#)  
**Subject:** Oppose Charter Amendments that Subvert Voter Rights and Obliterate Separation of Powers  
**Date:** Wednesday, January 26, 2022 8:29:15 AM

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Dear Rules Committee Members and Supervisors,

I respectfully urge you to oppose several proposed Charter Amendments that subvert voters' rights, fundamentally distort the balance of power in San Francisco and create more gridlock in government.

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#8 211288 [Declaration of Policy and Charter Amendment - Fossil Fuel Disinvestment Policy; Retirement Board Membership]

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Since most Supervisors supported the recall of at least one BOE member, it is worth noting that if this amendment were in place now, and the BOE recalls are successful, the BOE itself would select replacements for Collins, Lopez, and Moliga. This would significantly decrease the impact of the recall.

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The amendment changes what branch of government has control over City Board appointments. I think the balance of power should stay as it is. Large cities need an executive (Mayor) who is accountable to ALL citizens.

Sincerely,

Richard J. Leider  
D) 415-947-7230  
O) 415-285-5000  
C) 415-672-2160  
RLeider@Leidergroup.com

**From:** [Eileen Sullivan](#)  
**To:** [Peskin, Aaron \(BOS\)](#); [ChanStaff \(BOS\)](#); [MandelmanStaff, \[BOS\]](#); [Mar, Gordon \(BOS\)](#); [MelgarStaff \(BOS\)](#); [Preston, Dean \(BOS\)](#); [Ronen, Hillary](#); [Safai, Ahsha \(BOS\)](#); [Stefani, Catherine \(BOS\)](#); [Walton, Shamann \(BOS\)](#); [Young, Victor \(BOS\)](#); [soard1.2020@gmail.com](mailto:soard1.2020@gmail.com); [Haney, Matt \(BOS\)](#)  
**Subject:** Oppose Charter Amendments that Subvert Voter Rights and Obliterate Separation of Powers  
**Date:** Wednesday, January 26, 2022 8:36:00 AM

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This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Dear Rules Committee Members and Supervisors, I respectfully urge you to oppose several proposed Charter Amendments that subvert voters' rights, fundamentally distort the balance of power in San Francisco and create more gridlock in government. <BR><BR>Please oppose the anti-democratic overreach of items numbered 5 through 8 on the Rules Committee Agenda for January 24, 2022 at 9am: #5 211286 [Charter Amendment - Building Inspection Commission. #6 211285 [Charter Amendment - Split Appointment Authority for Boards and Commissions; Powers and Duties of the City Administrator]<BR>#7 211287 [Charter Amendment - Filling Vacancies in Elected Offices; Timelines for Recall Process.#8 211288 [Declaration of Policy and Charter Amendment - Fossil Fuel Disinvestment Policy; Retirement Board Membership] Rationale for each objection:#5: 211286 [Charter Amendment - Building Inspection Commission] I oppose this attempt to reallocate powers of the Mayor to the BOS. #6: 211285 [Charter Amendment - Split Appointment Authority for Boards and Commissions; Powers and Duties of the City Administrator] I oppose this attempt to remove checks & balances in City Hall, removing power from the Mayor, who is elected by all citizens and giving it to the Supervisors who are elected by 1/11th of voters. This results in fewer citizens having a say in the direction of the city and it would permanently consolidate control for the Board of Supervisors over the voters and the executive branch in a way that has never been done before in San Francisco. #7: 211287 [Charter Amendment - Filling Vacancies in Elected Offices; Timelines for Recall Process] This proposal is an attempt to elevate elected officials above the people. Elected officials should always be subject to voter oversight and the Proposed Amendment decimates the power of the recall as an avenue to make political change in extreme circumstances. This is a cynical political reaction to the current recall efforts. Any vote in favor of putting this on the ballot conveys a clear message that the official is more concerned with gaining power than with serving the people. <BR><BR>Since most Supervisors supported the recall of at least one BOE member, it is worth noting that if this amendment were in place now, and the BOE recalls are successful, the BOE itself would select replacements for Collins, Lopez, and Moliga. This would significantly decrease the impact of the recall. This change to filling BOS vacancies makes no sense in that the 10 remaining Supervisors - none of whom were elected by people in the vacant seat district - would select the new Supervisor for that district. The Mayor is elected citywide, and so it makes sense for the person in that position to fill the vacancy. #8: 211288 [Declaration of Policy and Charter Amendment - Fossil Fuel Disinvestment Policy; Retirement Board Membership] This is a smokescreen power-grab. The BOS has no control over retirement investments: they are determined at the State level. The BOS can declare support for Fossil Fuel divestment without an expensive ballot measure. <BR>The amendment changes what branch of government has control over City Board appointments. I think the balance of power should stay as it is. Large cities need an executive (Mayor) who is accountable to ALL citizens.

Eileen Sullivan  
Sent from my iPad

**From:** [Simpson, Paul](#)  
**To:** [Peskin, Aaron \(BOS\)](#); [ChanStaff \(BOS\)](#); [MandelmanStaff, \[BOS\]](#); [Mar, Gordon \(BOS\)](#); [MelgarStaff \(BOS\)](#); [Preston, Dean \(BOS\)](#); [Ronen, Hillary](#); [Safai, Ahsha \(BOS\)](#); [Stefani, Catherine \(BOS\)](#); [Walton, Shamann \(BOS\)](#); [Young, Victor \(BOS\)](#); [matthaney@sfgov.org](mailto:matthaney@sfgov.org)  
**Subject:** Longtime SF Residents Oppose Charter Amendments that Subvert Voter Rights and Obliterate Separation of Powers  
**Date:** Wednesday, January 26, 2022 8:51:18 AM

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Dear Rules Committee Members and Supervisors,

As 69 year San Francisco residents residing in District 7, we respectfully urge you to oppose several proposed Charter Amendments that subvert voters' rights, fundamentally distort the balance of power in San Francisco and create more gridlock in government.

Please oppose the anti-democratic overreach of items numbered 5 through 8 on the Rules Committee Agenda for January 24, 2022 at 9am:

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- #6 211285 [Charter Amendment - Split Appointment Authority for Boards and Commissions; Powers and Duties of the City Administrator]
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Rationale for each objection:

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Since most Supervisors supported the recall of at least one BOE member, it is worth noting that if this amendment were in place now, and the BOE recalls are successful, the BOE itself would select replacements for Collins, Lopez, and Moliga. This would significantly decrease the impact of the recall.

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The amendment changes what branch of government has control over City Board appointments. I think the balance of power should stay as it is. Large cities need an executive (Mayor) who is accountable to ALL citizens.

Sincerely,

Paul & Marie Siimpson  
415-672-1132

**From:** [Jan Diamond](#)  
**To:** [Young, Victor \(BOS\)](#)  
**Subject:** Vote NO today!  
**Date:** Wednesday, January 26, 2022 9:26:36 AM

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Sincerely,  
Jan Diamond  
SF Resident

**From:** [Jan Diamond](#)  
**To:** [Young, Victor \(BOS\)](#)  
**Subject:** Vote NO today!  
**Date:** Wednesday, January 26, 2022 9:40:35 AM

---

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Sincerely,  
Jan Diamond

**From:** [Matthew Righetti](#)  
**To:** [Peskin, Aaron \(BOS\)](#); [ChanStaff \(BOS\)](#); [MandelmanStaff, \[BOS\]](#); [Mar, Gordon \(BOS\)](#); [MelgarStaff \(BOS\)](#); [Preston, Dean \(BOS\)](#); [Ronen, Hillary](#); [Safai, Ahsha \(BOS\)](#); [Stefani, Catherine \(BOS\)](#); [Walton, Shamann \(BOS\)](#); [Young, Victor \(BOS\)](#); [matthaney@sfgov.org](mailto:matthaney@sfgov.org)  
**Subject:** Oppose Charter Amendments  
**Date:** Wednesday, January 26, 2022 9:49:05 AM

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Dear Rules Committee Members and Supervisors,

I have been a SF resident since 1982. I respectfully urge you to oppose several proposed Charter Amendments that subvert voters' rights, fundamentally distort the balance of power in San Francisco and create more gridlock in government.

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Sincerely,

**Matthew Righetti**

P: 415/983-0900

C: 415/264-9990

3452 Jackson Street

San Francisco, California 94118

[www.righettilaw.com](http://www.righettilaw.com)

**From:** [Peskin, Aaron \(BOS\)](#)  
**To:** [Young, Victor \(BOS\)](#)  
**Subject:** Fwd: Please Remove opportunities for overlapping authorities by city officials  
**Date:** Wednesday, January 26, 2022 12:32:41 PM

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**From:** zrants <zrants@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 26, 2022 11:53:34 AM  
**To:** Board of Supervisors, (BOS) <board.of.supervisors@sfgov.org>  
**Cc:** Chan, Connie (BOS) <connie.chan@sfgov.org>; Stefani, Catherine (BOS) <catherine.stefani@sfgov.org>; Peskin, Aaron (BOS) <aaron.peskin@sfgov.org>; Mar, Gordon (BOS) <gordon.mar@sfgov.org>; Preston, Dean (BOS) <dean.preston@sfgov.org>; Haney, Matt (BOS) <matt.haney@sfgov.org>; MelgarStaff (BOS) <melgarstaff@sfgov.org>; Ronen, Hillary <hillary.ronen@sfgov.org>; Walton, Shamann (BOS) <shamann.walton@sfgov.org>; MandelmanStaff, [BOS] <mandelmanstaff@sfgov.org>  
**Subject:** Please Remove opportunities for overlapping authorities by city officials

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January. 26, 2022

Supervisors:

re: Please Remove opportunities for overlapping authorities by city officials

We totally support Supervisor Chan's Charter Amendment to bring better accountability to the leadership at City Hall. It is really important for us to spread the balance of power at the top and appointments are a good place to start.

Please consider adding legislation that limits the number of positions all appointees, employees and staff may hold at any one time? The overlapping authorities with board and commission members sitting on oversight committees of their own departments, committees and commissions have created opportunities for the corruption exposed by State and Federal authorities that have turned San Francisco into a hotbed of political scandals.

We should limit each party's participation to a single position to remove such opportunities for abuse of power. We have enough smart informed citizens to take up the posts without the need for anyone to take on more than one position at a time. If you need to the abuse I refer to, you can look at any of our local publications for more than enough detailed discussions about the problems under investigation now.

As the supervisors know and the citizens are reminding you, the current system is broken. We need to rebalance the power at City Hall and give more citizens an opportunity to take on the responsibility for determining the city policies and priorities, that have been allowed to replace the legislative process in some departments. This removes the public voice and adds to frustration and animosity among the citizenry.



Please contact me directly if you want to discuss this further.

Sincerely,

Mari Eliza, concerned citizen  
with EMIA and CSFN  
[zrants@gmail.com](mailto:zrants@gmail.com)

**From:** [Jody Altman](#)  
**To:** [Peskin, Aaron \(BOS\)](#); [ChanStaff \(BOS\)](#); [MandelmanStaff, \[BOS\]](#); [Mar, Gordon \(BOS\)](#); [MelgarStaff \(BOS\)](#); [Preston, Dean \(BOS\)](#); [Ronen, Hillary](#); [Safai, Ahsha \(BOS\)](#); [Stefani, Catherine \(BOS\)](#); [Walton, Shamann \(BOS\)](#); [Young, Victor \(BOS\)](#); [soard1.2020@gmail.com](mailto:soard1.2020@gmail.com); [Haney, Matt \(BOS\)](#)  
**Subject:** Oppose Charter Amendments that Subvert Voter Rights and Obliterate Separation of Powers  
**Date:** Wednesday, January 26, 2022 10:20:43 PM

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Dear Rules Committee Members and Supervisors,

I respectfully urge you to oppose several proposed Charter Amendments that subvert voters' rights, fundamentally distort the balance of power in San Francisco and create more gridlock in government.

Please oppose the anti-democratic overreach of items numbered 5 through 8 on the Rules Committee Agenda for January 24, 2022 at 9am:

- #5 211286 [Charter Amendment - Building Inspection Commission]
- #6 211285 [Charter Amendment - Split Appointment Authority for Boards and Commissions; Powers and Duties of the City Administrator]
- #7 211287 [Charter Amendment - Filling Vacancies in Elected Offices; Timelines for Recall Process]
- #8 211288 [Declaration of Policy and Charter Amendment - Fossil Fuel Disinvestment Policy; Retirement Board Membership]

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Rationale for each objection:

#5: 211286 [Charter Amendment - Building Inspection Commission]

I oppose this attempt to reallocate powers of the Mayor to the BOS.

#6: 211285 [Charter Amendment - Split Appointment Authority for Boards and Commissions; Powers and Duties of the City Administrator]

I oppose this attempt to remove checks & balances in City Hall, removing power from the Mayor, who is elected by all citizens and giving it to the Supervisors who are elected by 1/11th of voters. This results in fewer citizens having a say in the direction of the city and it would permanently consolidate control for the Board of Supervisors over the voters and the executive branch in a way that has never been done before in San Francisco.

#7: 211287 [Charter Amendment - Filling Vacancies in Elected Offices; Timelines for Recall Process]

This proposal is an attempt to elevate elected officials above the people. Elected officials should always be subject to voter oversight and the Proposed Amendment decimates the power of the recall as an avenue to make political change in extreme circumstances. This is a cynical political reaction to the current recall efforts. Any vote in favor of putting this on the ballot conveys a clear message that the official is more concerned with gaining power than with serving the people.

Since most Supervisors supported the recall of at least one BOE member, it is worth noting that if this amendment were in place now, and the BOE recalls are successful, the BOE itself would select replacements for Collins, Lopez, and Moliga. This would significantly decrease the impact of the recall.

This change to filling BOS vacancies makes no sense in that the 10 remaining Supervisors - none of whom were

elected by people in the vacant seat district - would select the new Supervisor for that district. The Mayor is elected citywide, and so it makes sense for the person in that position to fill the vacancy.

#8: 211288 [Declaration of Policy and Charter Amendment - Fossil Fuel Disinvestment Policy; Retirement Board Membership]

This is a smokescreen power-grab. The BOS has no control over retirement investments: they are determined at the State level. The BOS can declare support for Fossil Fuel divestment without an expensive ballot measure. The amendment changes what branch of government has control over City Board appointments. I think the balance of power should stay as it is. Large cities need an executive (Mayor) who is accountable to ALL citizens.

Sincerely,

January 22, 2022

The Honorable Aaron Peskin  
Chair, Rules Committee  
Board of Supervisors  
235 City Hall  
San Francisco, CA 94102

Re: File No. 211287 Proposed Charter Amendment to Fill Vacancies in Elected Offices;  
Timelines for Recall Process

Dear Supervisor Peskin:

In lieu of orally testifying at today's delayed meeting, I am writing to urge that the Rules Committee reject this proposed charter amendment or that you reconsider and withdraw it.

This proposed charter amendment is a restraint on democracy and dissent which, if implemented, will place office holders above and beyond the voice of the voters and lead to chaos and further distrust of government.

The proposed charter amendment appears to be more protective of office holders than responsive to the tens of thousands of San Franciscans who elected them. It is the wrong response to the over 80,000 San Francisco voters who, after having been frustrated, demonized and shut off by members of the School Board, have followed the legal process to seek a citywide recall vote on February 15. Hear them, don't fear them!

The recall provisions have been enshrined in the California Constitution since 1911. They have been used sparingly. We have not had a local recall vote since 1983. At that time, the San Francisco Democratic Club, Haight Ashbury Neighborhood Council, San Franciscans for Public Power and other truly progressive groups wrote, "The Recall Process is a vital part of our electoral system. It ensures that public officials are held accountable. Characterization of a recall as unfair – or of the 35,000 signers as an irresponsible fringe element – by opponents reveals their contempt for the democratic process." Leaders of the LGBT community and other members of Citizens for a New Mayor stated, "The issue is not the recall process – which is our democratic right. The issue is accountability and four years of broken promises." The Stonewall Democratic Club echoed similar sentiments.

The proposed charter amendment shields an elected official from recall for over half their term of office. Meanwhile, they can engage in non-criminal misconduct, be abusive to their colleagues or the public or take other missteps with no voter recourse. Imposing such a limited time period for petition gathering will force recall proponents to completely resort to paid signature gatherers, something that the authors presumably criticize the current system for.

The proposed charter amendment's process to replace a recalled incumbent (if that is even possible under the proposed scheme) is perhaps an even greater assault on the well functioning of government. The proposed charter amendment takes away the mayor's authority to appoint a replacement or replacements and hands it over to the remaining incumbents (some or all of whom may be as recall-worthy as the recalled incumbent(s) but have been shielded from recall by this charter amendment.) As an example, if the proposed charter amendment applied to the current recall and all three School Board members were recalled, it would require a unanimous vote of the then remaining four Board members to appoint the replacement. All it would take is one Board member to unilaterally prohibit anyone from being appointed by withholding his or her vote. And if this occurred in an election cycle when a majority of a Board is recalled, then the Board would not be able to function at all even if all remaining Board members were willing to act.

It is sad to see otherwise progressive public officials in San Francisco try to drastically limit the people's recall power. Taking away voting rights from the people, as this proposed charter amendment does, is exactly what we as San Franciscans oppose in other states. Taking away authority from the chief executive is reminiscent of what I saw Congressional Republicans do to President Obama when I served in his administration.

Thank you for the opportunity to express my strong opposition to the proposed charter amendment. I urge you to reconsider and withdraw it.

Sincerely,

John Trasvina

5150 Diamond Heights Blvd., #202B, San Francisco, CA 94131, [trasvina2@gmail.com](mailto:trasvina2@gmail.com)