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July 12, 2021

Rules Committee Meeting

Agenda Item 5: Mayoral Appointment, Historic Preservation Commission - Jason Wright

Dear Supervisors Peskin, Mandelman, and Chan:

I'm an architectural historian specializing in LGBTQ history in San Francisco writing in support of Mayor London Breed's nomination of Jason Wright to the Historic Preservation Commission.

I've had the privilege of working with Jason for 18 years and our resumes share many threads. We both started our careers at Architectural Resources Group on Pier 9 in the early 2000s. Jason inspired me from the beginning with his ability to move through the office confidently as a young and "out" gay man, while I -- a late-blooming lesbian -- spread my wings at a different pace.

Jason and I collaborated on architectural preservation projects at ARG for about a decade before moving to different firms. When my career turned to LGBTQ heritage, Jason was the first to volunteer his time for the Citywide Historic Context Statement for LGBTQ History, greeting guests in 2013 at The Women's Building for our first community meeting. He is a founding member of the GLBT Historical Society's Historic Places Working Group (2016-present) and the Arts & Culture Committee of the Citywide LGBTQ+ Cultural Heritage Strategy (2016-2020). Over the past decade, anytime I sent a call for community support for LGBTQ history in San Francisco, Jason was first in line.

In addition to being an enthusiastic LGBTQ heritage preservationist, Jason would be a wonderful addition to the Historic Preservation Commission because he's a seasoned preservation professional and he understands the fundamentals of historic preservation practice, policy, and law. I'm confident that the Historic Preservation Commission will benefit enormously from Jason Wright's thoughtful and kind presence. Thank you for considering him.

Respectfully,
Shayne

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