

Subject: File 220535: Oppose -unless amended
July 6, 2022

Dear Board Of Supervisors,

My name is Kasey Rios Asberry, I live in District 5, and I am a member of the Tenderloin Peoples Congress. I am writing in **opposition** of the proposed HSH Charter Amendment (File: 220535) unless the following amendments are made.

- 1) That the commission NOT be majority appointed by the Mayor
- 2) That the commission include a seat for a permanent supportive housing tenant appointed by the Board of Supervisors.
- 3) That the seat for a merchant/neighborhood association member be eliminated.

Supervisor Safaí, in drafting this Charter Amendment, did not listen to the community's needs. Nor did he engage stakeholders, including the voices of permanent supportive housing tenants that are so often not heard.

In the April 26 the SF Chronicle exposé on SROs used as supportive housing, it is well-established that the Mayor's Office has had its thumb on the scale for the past 20 years, with devastating effects on the quality of life of tenants whose living conditions remain inhospitable. SRO tenants need a way to evaluate performance and elevate these issues.

Furthermore, a permanent supportive housing tenant who is appointed by the Board of Supervisors would add a voice that is not often heard in discussions of homelessness issues. There would be no conflict of interest introduced with those who live inside this system represented. Rather, status quo representatives from CBO's and merchant organizations (currently Seat 4) have been heard from too much without necessarily any lived experience to inform their decisions, and should be removed from the Charter Amendment. Homeless and formerly homeless individuals have the best perspectives of the complex programmatic issues involving housing homeless individuals.

The public is supportive of commissions that don't have majority-Mayoral appointments. Prop D, which put the Sheriff's Department under a 4 BOS-3 Mayor oversight board, passed with 68% of the vote in November 2020. There is no reason that this structure can't be replicated with real oversight over the Department of Homelessness and Supportive Housing.

I urge you to oppose the Charter Amendment unless the three simple recommendations above are incorporated.

The people of our city are tired of paper tiger commissions that waste precious resources thereby harming all stakeholders and setting the issue back that we are all trying to address.

Sincerely,
Kasey Rios

District 5

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