

File No. 101529

Committee Item No. \_\_\_\_\_  
Board Item No. 60

# COMMITTEE/BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

## AGENDA PACKET CONTENTS LIST

Board of Supervisors Meeting

Date December 14, 2010

Cmte Board

- |                          |                                     |  |
|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            | Motion                                       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Resolution                                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            | Ordinance                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            | Legislative Digest                           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            | Budget Analyst Report                        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            | Legislative Analyst Report                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            | Youth Commission Report                      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            | Introduction Form (for hearings)             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            | Department/Agency Cover Letter and/or Report |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            | MOU  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            | Grant Information Form                       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            | Grant Budget                                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            | Subcontract Budget                           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            | Contract/Agreement                           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            | Award Letter                                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            | Application                                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Public Correspondence                        |

OTHER

(Use back side if additional space is needed)

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

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Completed by: Andrea Ausberry Date 12/9/10

Completed by: \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

An asterisked item represents the cover sheet to a document that exceeds 25 pages.  
The complete document is in the file.



1 [Supporting the KPFA Morning Show]

2  
3 **Resolution expressing concern about recent layoffs of the KPFA *Morning Show* staff**  
4 **and urging Pacific Radio, KPFA's local board, the staff members and their union to find**  
5 **a solution to the current programming crisis.**

6  
7 WHEREAS, KPFA's *Morning Show* is the station's most popular and most revenue-  
8 generating program; and

9  
10 WHEREAS, KPFA's *Morning Show* serves as an important civic forum for the San  
11 Francisco Bay Area and explores issues and perspectives that rarely get aired in the  
12 mainstream media; and,

13 WHEREAS, Pacifica Radio recently laid off senior staff of the *Morning Show* creating  
14 great disruption at the station and concern within the listener audience; and,

15  
16 WHEREAS, The layoffs are creating conditions that are undermining the democratic  
17 spirit of Pacifica Radio's unique experiment in listener-supported-employee run radio; and,

18 WHEREAS, surrounding KPFA are many entities that must better coordinate their  
19 efforts to keep this station on the air and in better financial footing. These entities include the  
20 Pacifica Radio board, KPFA's Local Board, the staff union leadership of CWA Local 9415,  
21 listener representatives and media organizations; now, therefore, be it,

22 RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Board of Supervisors urges Pacifica Radio to  
23 seek mediation with the station union, the local station board, and listener representatives to  
24  
25

negotiate in a transparent manner a collective solution that will be fair and acceptable to all, bringing the current *Morning Show* crisis to a favorable conclusion, and be it,

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Board of Supervisors urges these entities to continue this effort to stabilize the financial standing of the station and strengthen the stations efforts to bring grassroots commercial free programming to the Bay Area and beyond.

**Appeal to the Supervisors to stay neutral concerning KPFA**

Tuesday, December 7, 2010 10:03 AM

From: "Mara" <mararivera65@yahoo.com>

To: John.Avalos@sfgov.org, Michela.Aliota-Pier@sfgov.org, David.Campos@sfgov.org, David.Chiu@sfgov.org, Carmen.Chu@sfgov.org, Chris.Daly@sfgov.org, Bevan.Dufty@sfgov.org, Sean.Elsbernd@sfgov.org, Eric.L.Mar@sfgov.org, Sofie.Maxwell@sfgov.org, Ross.Mirkarimi@sfgov.org, [Frances.Hsieh@sfgov.org](mailto:Frances.Hsieh@sfgov.org)

To John Avalos and the entire San Francisco Board of Supervisors:

We wholeheartedly agree with you as to the need for KPFA/Pacifica to remain as an invaluable, essential institution in our community and beyond. Therefore we would like you to consider the following current situation and job actions.

For the past 3 weeks KPFA on air programmers have been using their control of the air and the good will of the majority of listeners, who know little of the goings-on behind the scenes, to drive a wedge between KPFA and Pacifica Foundation. They avoid any discussion of the indivisible relationship of Pacifica to KPFA or the financial crisis which could lead very shortly to bankruptcy. They are choosing to drag this campaign against Pacifica on instead of trying to raise and preserve the resources needed to save the programming we depend on.

So the question is why have these programmers run this extensive, time consuming campaign, against Pacifica to the listener community, to city and county officials, agencies, and commissions, to everyone of influence that they have access to?

Why are they wanting any money raised to go only to KPFA and not to Pacifica, which depends on funds from all the stations, when they know the starving and destruction of Pacifica means the end of the whole network, including KPFA?

You may have heard that the controversy today mirrors that of 1999 when the community took to the streets to keep the self selecting Pacifica Board from selling KPFA or WBAI, which is what they were discussing doing at the time. The situation today is just the opposite, the Pacifica Foundation with the support of the now democratically elected Pacifica Board are acting to maintain the integrity of the network, the only independent, progressive, media network in the country, consisting of 5 stations and over 100 affiliates, by not allowing KPFA to stay on a course leading to its financial destruction and the destruction of the entire network. Pacifica has had to intervene because the board and Managers at KPFA have not taken control of the finances to stop the downward spiral. Pacifica is stepping in to perform an emergency rescue of KPFA before it brings the whole network down as it continues paying out more that it is taking in. Arlene Engelhardt and the previous Executive Director, with the support of the Pacifica National Board, are the first to take any such action in many years. It was necessary to cut paid staff hours to balance the budget, there was no other way, and the other 4 stations have done it, after all were asked to do so some 2 years ago.

You should also be aware that the Pacifica office has cut its staff to bare bones; I know because I, Sally Sommers, have been volunteering there doing routine clerical work that is not being done due to under staffing. The supposedly bloated Pacifica budget is a red herring. You may have already heard from others what it is that Pacifica must pay for: insurance, audits, legal fees, utilities, license fees, providing programming to 100 affiliates and more. Pacifica holds the broadcast license for the stations and provides centralized services (including Democracy Now) which would cost hundreds of thousands of dollars were the stations to provide them individually.

## JOB ACTIONS??

Are you aware that after being given layoff notices, the programmers of the Morning Show stopped their regular programming and started a campaign against Pacifica? That is the reason they were taken off the air and not allowed to stay on the air for the time they had remaining. Again, I ask why weren't they trying to gather resources for the network and KPFA, and allow new local staffing for the Morning Show?

I hope you will at least consider the possibility that the people who are trying to influence you to support them in maintaining their jobs that were reduced according to seniority and special skill sets, have been reckless and irresponsible in putting this precious network in jeopardy by using precious airtime and the good will of the community to campaign against Pacifica. Other union members at the station, with more seniority, have refused, in writing, to accept a transfer to work on the Morning Show in order to get it back on the air. This in spite of job actions being prohibited in the contract. We wonder what they could be thinking?? They are all aware that this institution is on the brink and all they concentrate on are two programmers who were laid off according to seniority. We all love Brian and Aimee, but most of the vocal on air programmers are not working to garner support from the listeners in order to have a healthy station and network.

Please do not ask Pacifica to reverse the only workable cost cutting measure made purely to save the station and network, applied according to union seniority specifications.

Please allow the station to come to a resolution of its situation, without outside interference by those who have heard the one side almost exclusively. We have been

KPFA activists for many years now and are familiar with the ongoing power struggles at the station which have brought us to this crisis, and we know how important it is to preserve KPFA free of government as well as corporate involvement.

We appreciate that you want to help, but KPFA would be best served if you would stay totally neutral in this difficult situation, in which the truth will eventually come out, hopefully in time to save the station and network.

Most sincerely counting on your good judgement,  
Sally Sommer and Mara Rivera,  
long time KPFA/Pacifica listener supporters and activists

## INTRODUCTION FORM

By a member of the Board of Supervisors or the Mayor

Time Stamp or  
Meeting Date

I hereby submit the following item for introduction:

- 1. For reference to Committee:  
An ordinance, resolution, motion, or charter amendment.
- 2. Request for next printed agenda without reference to Committee
- 3. Request for Committee hearing on a subject matter.
- 4. Request for letter beginning "Supervisor \_\_\_\_\_ inquires...".
- 5. City Attorney request.
- 6. Call file from Committee.
- 7. Budget Analyst request (attach written motion).
- 8. Substitute Legislation File Nos.

Please check the appropriate boxes. The proposed legislation should be forwarded to the following:

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Small Business Commission      | <input type="checkbox"/> Youth Commission    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ethics Commission              | <input type="checkbox"/> Planning Commission |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Building Inspection Commission |  |

**Note:** For the Imperative Agenda (a resolution not on the printed agenda), use a different form.]

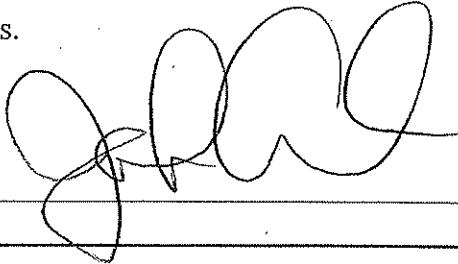
Sponsor(s): Supervisor John Avalos, Enc. Mayor, David Campos + Ross Mirkarimi

**SUBJECT:** Supporting KPFA Morning Show

Resolution expressing concern about recent layoffs of KPFA *Morning Show* staff and urging Pacific Radio, KPFA's local board, the staff members and their union to find a solution to the current programming crisis.

The text is listed below or attached:

Signature of Sponsoring Supervisor: \_\_\_\_\_



**For Clerk's Use Only:**

