Patrick Monette-Shaw

975 Sutter Street, Apt. 6 San Francisco, CA 94109 Phone: (415) 292-6969 • email: <u>pmonette-</u> shaw@eartlink.net

February 6, 2023

San Francisco Board of Supervisors Rules Committee
The Honorable Matt Dorsey, Chair, Rules Committee
The Honorable Shamann Walton, Member, Rules Committee
The Honorable Ahsha Safai, Member, Rules Committee
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place
San Francisco, CA 94102

Re: Agenda Item #5, Board File #221008: Opposition to Discontinuation of Remote Participation in Dial-In Public Comment During Board Meetings

Dear Chair Dorsey and Rules Committee Members,

As a gay man myself, I am submitting testimony opposing the Motion to discontinue remote dial-in public participation during full Board and Board Committee meetings.

This ill-conceived legislation is an affront to every San Franciscan, as Mr. Mandelman should know, particularly as a gay man representing the LGBTQ+ constituents in his District.

At a time of declining interest in politics and public participation in political processes nationwide, it is alarming Mr. Mandelman has seen fit to attempt restricting public participation in what our elected officials are doing in our names. This is absolutely shameful!

The "universe" of members of the public who call in to make First Amendment Free Speech public comment is miniscule. If they show up in a City Hall meeting where the can make public comment without restriction, enacting this Motion would only slightly reduce the

number of people who call in remotely. Where's the data and the science to show there are a too many people calling in? Show us the data! From my experience with efforts to rescue Laguna Honda Hospital, there are not an inordinate number of people who call in remotely for public comment.

I don't know if this is "The World According to Garp," or "The Weirder Universe According to Mandelman," but it's completely anti-democratic and something befitting of Donald Trump's Republican MAGA aficionado's.

Supervisor Mandelman should come to his senses and simply withdraw this Legislation.

If he doesn't withdraw it, I urge the Rules Committee to Table this Motion completely and do not pass it, or send any recommendation to the full Board of Supervisors.

Respectfully submitted,

Patrick Monette-Shaw

Columnist/Reporter
Westside Observer Newspaper

cc: The Honorable Aaron Peskin, Board President

The Honorable Connie Chan, Supervisor, District 1

The Honorable Catherine Stefani, Supervisor, District 2

The Honorable Joel Engardio, Supervisor, District 4

The Honorable Dean Preston, Supervisor, District 5

The Honorable Myrna Melgar, Supervisor, District 7

The Honorable Rafael Mandelman, Supervisor, District 8

The Honorable Hillary Ronen, Supervisor, District 9

Angela Calvillo, Clerk of the Board

Victor Young, Clerk of the Rules Committee

From: <u>Tyler Breisacher</u>
To: <u>Young, Victor (BOS)</u>

Subject: opposing the change to public comment rules

Date: Friday, February 3, 2023 5:52:48 PM

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Just wanted to express my opposition to item 221008, "Limiting Teleconferencing and Remote Public Comment at Meetings of the Board of Supervisors and its Committees" before the rules committee meets to discuss it.

Allowing public comment by phone has made a big difference to people being able to participate in the board's discussions, and I really hope they can find a way to keep it, in some form. I didn't realize until reading the legislation that doing so requires four additional people from the clerk's office! Perhaps someone can figure out a way to reduce that to just one or two. Or maybe remote public comment can be set up only for meetings where someone requests it to be set up, so that if a meeting is just routine items where there isn't much public comment anyway, the extra staff wouldn't be needed.

Apart from the specific issue of remote public comment, I would love to see the board come up with ways to engage the public more. Every once in a while I email in my comments if I can't attend the meeting (like I'm doing now) and even if the supervisors took a moment to acknowledge the emails they'd gotten and summarize the points made, I think that would go a long way towards making people feel that their email comments were actually listened to. Maybe for some issues, more "town hall" style meetings can be organized prior to the official committee meetings, which are often at times that are hard for people to attend.

I'm definitely sympathetic to the idea that the current system is unwieldy and can't really work forever, but I hope the committee can come up with some kind of system that encourages more public participation from everyone, not just those who are able to make it to city hall in the middle of the day when a committee meets.

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Tyler

From: regina sneed

To: Young, Victor (BOS); Dorsey, Matt (BOS); Walton, Shamann (BOS); Safai, Ahsha (BOS)

Cc: Stefani, Catherine (BOS)

Subject: Rules Committee Item 221008 Teleconferencing and remote public comment at meetings

Date: Saturday, February 4, 2023 1:45:15 PM

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

Dear Rules Committee Members:

I oppose any change in the teleconferencing and remote public comment rules for the Board of Supervisors and its Committees. This ordinance should be tabled until the general public has lots of notice about this change and it is discussed in every Board Committee and Commission meeting.

I only learned about it on Friday from an email from Gray Panthers and today from an email by Senior and Disability Action. If they are just alerting me about it, I'm sure others who attend Board or Committee meetings have not been given adequate notice.

I am a senior citizen whose health no longer allows me to attend meetings at City hall. During covid I have become more active in monitoring and commenting on legislation I believe that increased participation is true for all resident regardless of age.

Yes this access costs more but it saves in other ways.

- 1. It helps with the cities environmental goals to decrease emissions affecting global warming.
- 2. It allows parents, the elderly and people who work to efficiently participate without leaving their office or home. No taking leave, no baby sitter expenses etc.
- 3. The 72 hour request for accommodations under the old system never really worked. In the last 8 months that I have been working on the military equipment issue, there were changes made in draft ordinances that occurred within the 72 hour period. Since the Rules Committee meets at 10 AM Monday, these changes were sometimes not posted with the original notice for the meeting. This kind of accommodation does not comport with the better universal access for everyone standards we should expect with modern communications tools.
- 4. All city commissions should offer the same public remote access.
- 5. No one likes long meetings, but as public officials it is your job. It's in the public interest to increase participation in government.

Please keep the current system allowing for remote public comment.

Thank you.

Regina Sneed District Two resident

Sent from my iPad

From: Joe A. Kunzler

To: Young, Victor (BOS)

Subject: Fwd: Motion 221008 - the Remote Testimony Resolution

Date: Saturday, February 4, 2023 4:25:50 PM

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

E-mail missive 2 of 2 for the file.

JOE

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Joe A. Kunzler** < <u>growlernoise@gmail.com</u>>

Date: Fri, Feb 3, 2023 at 2:24 PM

Subject: Motion 221008 - the Remote Testimony Resolution

To: Board of Supervisors (BOS) < Board.of.Supervisors@sfgov.org >

 $\label{eq:cc:chanStaff@sfgov.org>, < marstaff@sfgov.org>, < RonenStaff@sfgov.org>, StefaniStaff, (BOS) < stefanistaff@sfgov.org>, < EngardioStaff@sfgov.org>, < hknight@sfchronicle.com>, < ashanks@sfexaminer.com>, < Aaron.Peskin@sfgov.org>, < Dean.Preston@sfgov.org>, Joe$

K. <growlernoise@gmail.com>, <Shamann.Walton@sfgov.org>,

<<u>Hillary.Ronen@sfgov.org</u>>, <<u>richie@greenbergnation.com</u>>, <<u>hello@togethersf.org</u>>,

<contact@growsf.org>, <Catherine.Stefani@sfgov.org>

Dear SF Board of Supervisors and Staff;

I'm going to be acute about this Motion 221008 of yours.

For contrast, Washington State is celebrating <u>almost a year of guaranteed</u> remote testimony from HB 1329. Actually works up here as per the above link.

Meanwhile, San Francisco is working to shut down remote testimony.

Supervisor Catherine "Maverick" Stefani is out ill and using remote access.

I just find it incredibly sickening and frankly cruel that the fear of the other in SF of all places has taken hold while the greatest voice for courage is ill.

What Supervisor Catherine Stefani once created in freedom's safest place and the ultimate pwnage of the NRA is now surrounded by fentanyl and fear.

What an impeachable act under the cloak of good intentions to silence all of the public.

I really hope you Supervisors think about what you are doing and why. I thought you wanted to serve the public.

Note the CC line. Check it again. Trust me when I say this: People are going to see your answer.

My doors are open to discuss this, but I have a 3 PM crisis meeting to attend about... YOU.

Like a Stefani, the rest I submit;

Joe A. Kunzler 360-499-4997 growlernoise@gmail.com From: Joe A. Kunzler

To: Young, Victor (BOS)

Subject: JAK comments 1 of 2 Fwd: Motion 221008

Date: Saturday, February 4, 2023 4:26:42 PM

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

E-mail missive 1 of 2 for the file for ya.

JOE

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Joe A. Kunzler** < <u>growlernoise@gmail.com</u>>

Date: Fri, Feb 3, 2023 at 1:28 PM

Subject: Motion 221008 - the "Sorry You'll Ill Lady Catherine, But I Want to Shut You

Down" Motion

To: Catherine Stefani < info@supervisorstefani.com >, < Catherine.Stefani@sfgov.org >,

<StefaniStaff>, BOS <<u>stefanistaff@sfgov.org</u>>

Cc: <Feinberg>, Giles <<u>Giles.Feinberg@sfgov.org</u>>, <Mandelman>, Rafael

<rafael.mandelman@sfgov.org>

Hi there Supervisor Stefani and esteemed CCs;

Apparently Motion 221008 - the "Sorry You'll III Lady Catherine, But I Want to Shut You and Your Superfans Down" Motion is on deck for Rules.

Let's get this over with: Nice going Supervisor Mandleman, nice going. Good intentions but timing couldn't be worse. You can't send tea to your ill colleague and kill this gawdawful resolution? Well I did send *my hero* Constant Comment tea, it's coming Monday. Also, in the interest of class somewhere, somehow: Thank you Supervisor Mandleman for forcing my hand on putting these thoughts below to Gmail.

Now to the main event: Supervisor Stefani, I think you know in that unique way you say you know how I want you to vote and opera sing on this airhead resolution. I think ya do. Rest that opera singer's voice attached to the heart of a Zelensky and give a shout if you need ANYTHING. In case I was not clear: PLEASE GET WELL SOON.

With that, some context: The Washington Coalition for Open Gov't hasn't made this public yet, but we are honoring the heroes on 17 March who bring about protecting remote testimony and the prime sponsor of our HB 1329 is a strong woman in former Rep Emily Wicks. We're also a party to this fight because well, I pulled a few strings to make it so. Something about the Kunzler family's debt of honor to the Stefanis for standing up to gun violence for us gun violence survivors and helping me wake up my folks.

Also I've meant to say this directly but due to SFBOS rules, I've had to dance around being direct: The guilt after each of these mass shootings should be MINE, NOT YOURS SUPERVISOR STEFANI FOR NOT BEING THERE BY YOUR SIDE AND SHANNON WATTS' + MIKE BLOOMBERG'S SIDE FOR THAT MATTER ALL THIS TIME. Every time I step up to "join us" - thank you, I rock out to you - in the fight against gun violence, I'm defying my family but I don't consider it family honor or patriotic to sit on the sidelines and cower. Politics in a democracy is a participatory sport and it's a damn shame it's come down to this.

I get the frustration with the overlong meetings and the fact most of the testifiers would cross the street to NOT be seen near a STRONG Supervisor much less wanting to make HER day. But to some of us, me included, feel an obligation to get your back.

Why? Heckfire, back home some call me Maverick. I say you want a Maverick? Go to San Francisco and watch Supervisor Stefani do StefaniStuff. I mean who in the rightful patriotic mind does NOT want to grab 150 guns off the streets during the holidays? Or call the NRA a bunch of terrorists and take the heat like a brave boss? Or get after Congress and their wimpy ways like you do?

That my SF friends is precisely why I'm a Supervisor Stefani Superfan: You care and you show others how to show we care in public life. You are brave and fierce and strong, not just gorgeous. You are the leader yours truly wants to be.

Now again, Supervisor Stefani you please get well soon, drink

some free "Constant Comment" tea coming Monday afternoon to your office and please vote down Tuesday this *well-intended* abomination in Mottion 221008. SF needs you and you need your supporters to actually publicly stand with you. You've done an outstanding, exemplary job on fighting gun violence, but SF needs you and your posse. Something about "don't thank us... join us" and Motion 221008 makes the "join us" harder.

Very strategically submitted;

Joe A. Kunzler 360-499-2997 growlernoise@gmail.com

P.S. If you Supervisor Stefani feel up to it and when back in good health, plz share some of the tea with Clerk Angela and Speaker Pelosi. I'm a big fan of Clerk Angela and my mom's a big fan of Speaker Pelosi when she visits 14 Feb - yes, I watch SFGOVTV. Sorry I'm stuck home. Thanks!

From: pmonette-shaw

To: Chan, Connie (BOS); Stefani, Catherine (BOS); Peskin, Aaron (BOS); Engardio, Joel (BOS); Preston, Dean (BOS); Dorsey, Matt (BOS); Melgar, Myrna (BOS); Mandelman, Rafael (BOS); Ronen, Hillary; Walton, Shamann (BOS); Safai, Ahsha (BOS); ChanStaff (BOS); MelgarStaff (BOS);

DorseyStaff (BOS); Calvillo, Angela (BOS); Young, Victor (BOS)

Cc: Hsieh, Frances (BOS); Groth, Kelly (BOS); Yu, Angelina (BOS); Burke, Robyn (BOS); Donovan, Dominica (BOS); Feinberg, Giles (BOS); Del Rosario,

Mick (BOS); Logan, Sam (BOS); Angulo, Sunny (BOS); Yan, Calvin (BOS); Souza, Sarah (BOS); Hsu, Melody (BOS); Bell, Tita (BOS); Lam, Kit (BOS); Timony, Simon (BOS); Goldberg, Jonathan (BOS); Smeallie, Kyle (BOS); Kilgore, Preston (BOS); Hernandez, Melissa G (BOS); Bolen, Jennifer M. (BOS); Tam, Madison (BOS); Dahl, Bryan (BOS); Leo Alfaro (BOS); Ebadi, Mahanaz (BOS); Fieber, Jennifer (BOS); Heiken, Emma (BOS); Carrillo, Lila (BOS); Low, Jen (BOS); Farrah, Michael (BOS); Thornhill, Jackie (BOS); Prager, Jackie (BOS); Green, Ross (BOS); World, Heather (BOS); Lerma, Santiago (BOS); Saini, Nikita (BOS); Herrera, Ana (BOS); Ferrigno, Jennifer (BOS); Burch, Percy (BOS); Gallardo, Tracy (BOS); Gee, Matalle (BOS); Lopez-Weaver, Lindsey (BOS); Chung, Lauren (BOS); Jones, Ernest (BOS); Barnes, Bill (BOS); Buckley, Jeff (BOS); Somera, Alisa

(BOS)

Subject: Agenda Item #5, Board File #221008: Mandelman Forgot Supervisor Tom Ammiano Affirmatively Voted for Resolution 270-96 Passed and Adopted

30 Years Ago for Official City Policy Allo9wing Remote Call-In Testimony

Date: Saturday, February 4, 2023 6:41:00 PM

Attachments: 30-Year Official City Policy — Resolution 270-96 Call-in-Testimony-Resolution.pdf

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

Patrick Monette-Shaw

975 Sutter Street, Apt. 6 San Francisco, CA 94109 Phone: (415) 292-6969 • e-mail: pmonetteshaw@eartlink.net

February 6, 2023

San Francisco Board of Supervisors Rules Committee
The Honorable Matt Dorsey, Chair, Rules Committee
The Honorable Shamann Walton, Member, Rules Committee
The Honorable Ahsha Safai, Member, Rules Committee
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place
San Francisco, CA 94102

Re: Agenda Item #5, Board File #221008: Additional Comment: Don't Forget Board Resolution 270-96

Opposition to Discontinuation of Remote Participation in Dial-In Public Comment During Board Meetings

Dear Chair Dorsey and Rules Committee Members,

Mr. Mandelman's limited knowledge of City Policy made him overlook in his 20 "WHEREAS" clauses to his proposed Resolution that for nearly three decades, it has been City policy to permit remote call-in public testimony by telephone.

So let me take a stab at writing WHEREAS and MOVED clauses:

"WHEREAS, Since it has been City Policy for nearly three decades after the Board of Supervisors adopted Board Resolution #270-96 on March 25, 1996 and then Mayor Willie L. Brown signed it into law on March 28, 1996 Resolving that it is the **Policy** of the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco that a call-in telephone system be developed to take public comments to increase public participation in City government; and

"WHEREAS, Since Resolution #270-96 was good enough for then-District 8 Supervisor Tom Ammiano's affirmative vote in 1996, it should be good enough for District 8 Supervisor Raphael Mandelman now as **permanent City Policy**; and

"THEREFORE, Be it Resolved that Supervisor Mandelman's anti-democratic efforts to end remote call-in comments during Board meetings and Committee meetings would violate official City Policy enacted 27 years ago in Resolution 270-96; and

"THEREFORE, The Rules Committee. on behalf of the full Board of Supervisors, Moves that no action on Supervisor Mandelman's anti-democratic Motion proposing to end remote public comment will be taken and it will be Tabled; and therefore, let it be,

"RESOLVED, That remote teleconferencing can continue for both members of the Board of Supervisors and members of the public given further advances in technology since 1996."

Resolution 270-96 is included in this testimony, and attached, for your reference and convenience.

Respectfully submitted,

Patrick Monette-Shaw

Columnist/Reporter Westside Observer Newspaper

cc: The Honorable Aaron Peskin, Board President

The Honorable Connie Chan, Supervisor, District 1

The Honorable Catherine Stefani, Supervisor, District 2

The Honorable Joel Engardio, Supervisor, District 4

The Honorable Dean Preston, Supervisor, District 5

The Honorable Myrna Melgar, Supervisor, District 7

The Honorable Rafael Mandelman, Supervisor, District 8

The Honorable Hillary Ronen, Supervisor, District 9

cc: (Continued)

Angela Calvillo, Clerk of the Board

Alisa Somera, Legislative Deputy Director to the Clerk of the Board

As amended in Board 3/25/96 RESOLUTION NO. 270-96 FILE NO. 54-96-2 [Call-in telephone system] DECLARING IT TO BE A POLICY OF THE CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN 1 FRANCISCO THAT THE CAPABILITY FOR A CALL-IN TELEPHONE 25/96 rt 3 SYSTEM FOR BOARD MEETINGS/BE DEVELOPED AND INSTRUCTING THE CLERK OF THE BOARD TO OVERSEE THE IMPLEMENTATION OF A 4 CALL-IN TELEPHONE SYSTEM. 5 7 WHEREAS, The Board of Supervisors has made it a long-standing policy to encourage public participation in the meetings of the Board, through 8 such measures as the passage of the Sunshine Ordinance and by sponsoring 9 10 and implementing Proposition P, which allows the Board to meet in the neighborhoods of San Francisco; and, 11 12 WHEREAS, Although the Board encourages public participation in 13 14 Board meetings, there are still many San Franciscans who are unable to attend the meetings in person; and, 15 16 17 WHEREAS, The Board meetings are broadcast live on radio by KPOO 18 radio and will soon be broadcast with gavel-to-gavel coverage by the San 19 Francisco Community Television Corporation; and,

> WHEREAS. The technology is available to allow those members of the public who cannot attend meetings in person to call in to the meetings by telephone and participate; and,

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SUPERVISOR KEVIN SHELLEY

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Adopted - Board of Supervisors, San Francisco March 25, 1996

Supervisors Ammiano Bierman Hsieh Kaufman Kennedy Leal Migden Shelley Teng Yaki

Absent: Supervisor Alioto

I hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was adopted by the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco

File No 54-96-2

MAR 2 8 1996

Date Approved

Bruns

Victor Young, Clerk of the Rules Committee

WHEREAS, Other cities have developed call-in telephone access to government meetings and have implemented inexpensive and simple systems that are very popular and have increased public participation in meetings; and,

WHEREAS, Interactive telephone access to the Board meetings will provide for greater public access to the workings of local government and increase public participation and awareness; now, therefore be it,

RESOLVED, That the City and County of Supervisors declares it to be a policy that the capability for call-in telephone system for Board of Supervisors under 'the Public Commet item'
meetings/be developed and instructs the Clerk of the Board to oversee the implementation of a call-in telephone system.

From: <u>VIVIAN IMPERIALE</u>

To: <u>Dorsey, Matt (BOS)</u>; <u>Walton, Shamann (BOS)</u>; <u>Safai, Ahsha (BOS)</u>

 Cc:
 Calvillo, Angela (BOS); Young, Victor (BOS)

 Subject:
 Keep remote meeting access in San Francisco

 Date:
 Sunday, February 5, 2023 12:34:33 PM

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

Honorable Members of the Rules Committee:

Do not accept or forward Supervisor Mandelman's proposal to eliminate the public's ability to call in to meetings to provide their comments. This is a valid and necessary way for people to participate in government affairs and decision-making.

Many people have schedules that preclude a trip to City Hall. Many people have physical limitations that make such a trip undoable.

People have different communication styles: some like to testify in person; some like to write; some like to phone in.

These factors should not eliminate their participation.

Thank you.

Vivian Imperiale

From: VIVIAN IMPERIALE

To: Young, Victor (BOS)

Subject: Fwd: Keep remote meeting access in San Francisco

Date: Sunday, February 5, 2023 12:36:48 PM

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

Please include my written testimony in the public correspondence folder on-line for Board File #221008.

Thank you.

Vivian Imperiale

----- Original Message -----

From: VIVIAN IMPERIALE < zizivaga@comcast.net>

To: Matt Dorsey <matt.dorsey@sfgov.org>, "Shamann.Walton@sfgov.org"

<Shamann.Walton@sfgov.org>, "Ahsha.Safai@sfgov.org"

<Ahsha.Safai@sfgov.org>

Cc: "Angela.Calvillo@sfgov.org" < Angela.Calvillo@sfgov.org>,

"victor.young@sfgov.org" <victor.young@sfgov.org>

Date: 02/05/2023 12:34 PM

Subject: Keep remote meeting access in San Francisco

Honorable Members of the Rules Committee:

Do not accept or forward Supervisor Mandelman's proposal to eliminate the public's ability to call in to meetings to provide their comments. This is a valid and necessary way for people to participate in government affairs and decision-making.

Many people have schedules that preclude a trip to City Hall. Many people have physical limitations that make such a trip undoable.

People have different communication styles: some like to testify in person; some like to write; some like to phone in.

These factors should not eliminate their participation.

Thank you.

Vivian Imperiale