From: Steve Leeds
To: Young, Victor (BOS)
Subject: Letter of Support for Gilbert Williams nomination as Planning Commissioner
Date: Monday, March 11, 2024 10:51:25 AM

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Date: March 11, 2024

Re: Letter of Support for Gilbert Williams appointment to San Francisco Planning Commission

Dear Members of the Rules Committee - Supervisors, Ronen, Walton, and Safai:

My name is Steve Leeds, a member and co-founder of the West Side Tenants Association (WSTA). I am writing on behalf of the organization in strong support of Gilbert Williams' appointment to the Planning Commission.

WSTA began on the westside in 2019 and now works with tenants throughout San Francisco who are organizing against eviction, supports deeply affordable housing and provides mutual aid. We are an all-volunteer organization that witnesses the widespread lack of housing justice for our most vulnerable communities.

We believe that Mr. Williams, as a lifelong San Franciscan, neighborhood leader, union member, and through his profession as a carpenter, has acquired the technical skills necessary to serve in the role of Planning Commissioner. For over a decade, Mr. Williams has been a strong advocate on behalf of working class communities in community planning and land use decisions. His experience as a homeowner as well as a tenant gives him a wide lens that helps him make decisions that best serve our most vulnerable communities. The Planning Commission, in the midst of an affordability crisis that impacts many San Franciscans, needs a strong and fair voice from the community like Mr. Williams.

These are the qualities that are important to our members and our community and we strongly urge your support and vote for Mr. Williams.

Respectfully,

Steve Leeds
West Side Tenants Association