



June 21, 2024

San Francisco Board of Supervisors
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place
San Francisco, CA 94102

Dear Members of the San Francisco Board of Supervisors,

We, the undersigned members of the Friends of Harvey Milk Plaza Honorary Committee, are writing to express our unequivocal support for the Harvey Milk Plaza project. As members of the LGBTQ+ community in San Francisco, we understand the profound significance of commemorating Harvey Milk's legacy and the vital role this memorial will play in both honoring our history and inspiring future generations to continue working toward greater social justice for all marginalized people.

Harvey Milk was a trailblazer whose dedication to social justice and equality transcended the LGBTQ+ community, leaving an indelible mark on the Castro, our city, and the world. The proposed Harvey Milk Plaza is more than just a physical space; it is a symbol of hope, resilience, and the enduring fight for human rights.

We believe that the new Harvey Milk Plaza will become an iconic landmark, drawing visitors from around the globe and reinforcing San Francisco's reputation as a beacon of diversity and inclusion. Furthermore, we have witnessed the strong support this project has received from members of the LGBTQ+ community in San Francisco, as well as the broader community, and are inspired by how this vision has unified a wide variety of viewpoints and interests.

We urge the Board of Supervisors to approve the necessary measures to bring this important project to fruition. Your support will not only honor Harvey Milk's memory but also reinforce San Francisco's commitment to equality, diversity, and human rights.

Thank you for your consideration and your dedication to preserving the rich history and values of our City.

Sincerely,

Rob Epstein

Academy Award Winning Director, Writer,
Producer, *"The Times of Harvey Milk"*

Joshua "Peaches Christ" Grannell

Entertainer, Filmmaker, Event Producer

Cleve Jones

Activist, Author & Community Leader

Anne Kronenberg

Activist, Civil Servant,
Harvey's 1977 Campaign Manager

Juanita MORE!

Activist, Entertainer, Community Organizer

Dan Nicoletta

Photographer & Artist

Tom Nolan

Transportation Leader, Activist

Sister Roma

Sisters of the Perpetual Indulgence

Donna Sachet

LGBT Activist and Entertainer

Jeff Sheehy

Former SF Supervisor - District 8

Gary Virginia

Past President, SF Pride

Sen. Scott Wiener

CA State Senator - District 11

Thursday June 20, 2024

San Francisco Board of Supervisors
City Hall
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place
San Francisco, CA 94102

Dear Members of the San Francisco Board of Supervisors,

As both the nephew of Harvey Milk, the family spokesperson, and founder of the Harvey Milk Foundation. I am honored to support the Harvey Milk Plaza project, which holds vital historical and personal significance to all of us and to the greater legacy of my uncle.

Harvey was not only a loving uncle but he is a critically important and pioneering figure in the global LGBTQ+ rights movement. His legacy continues to inspire countless communities and civil society movements across the globe. The Harvey Milk Plaza project represents more than a tribute to his memory; it is a beacon of hope and progress for future generations.

This project aims to transform the existing space into a vibrant, inclusive, and educational environment. By creating a plaza that celebrates Harvey's life and accomplishments, we are providing a gathering place where both the residents of San Francisco and folks from around the world can connect with the importance of equality, diversity, and be inspired for their own activism.

The Harvey Milk Plaza project is not just a local initiative but a symbol of global importance. It serves as a reminder of the strides we have made in the fight for LGBTQ+ rights and the work that still lies ahead. The plaza will be a testament to Uncle Harvey's enduring impact and a source of inspiration for those who continue to advocate for justice and equality.

I urge the Board of Supervisors to support this project, recognizing its potential to positively impact the community and preserve Harvey Milk's legacy. By supporting the Harvey Milk Plaza, you are contributing to a future that embraces diversity, champions human rights, and honors the memory of a trailblazer who gave his life in the line of justice and freedom.

Thank you for your consideration and for your commitment to creating a more inclusive and equitable society.

Sincerely,

Stuart Milk
Milk family spokesperson
Chair, Harvey Milk Foundation

Thursday June 20, 2024

San Francisco Board of Supervisors
City Hall
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place
San Francisco, CA 94102

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Sincerely,

Stuart Milk
Milk family spokesperson
Chair, Harvey Milk Foundation

From: [Brian Springfield](#)
To: [Board of Supervisors \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Budget & Finance Committee Agenda item #240498 - Letter of Support, Compiled Supporters
Date: Friday, June 21, 2024 4:38:59 PM
Attachments: [2024-0620 Letter to SF BOS.pdf](#)

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

Please find attached a compiled set of letters of support gained to date for the Harvey Milk Plaza project under consideration by the Budget & Finance Committee as part of agenda item #240498.

Thank you,
Brian

--

Brian Springfield, Executive Director
he/him/his
The Friends of Harvey Milk Plaza
San Francisco, CA 94114
brian@friendsofharveymilkplaza.org | (415) 378-9577



June 20, 2024

San Francisco Board of Supervisors
City Hall
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place
San Francisco, CA 94102

Dear Members of the Board of Supervisors,

I am writing to you on behalf of Friends of Harvey Milk Plaza, the organization dedicated to organizing the community-led effort to reimagine Harvey Milk Plaza into a more inspiring commemorative space that more adequately honors the legacy of Harvey Milk and provides a vibrant community space in the very heart of our City.

To demonstrate the broad support for this initiative, we have gathered letters of endorsement from various community leaders, organizations, and stakeholders who share our enthusiasm for the project. These letters, attached herewith, highlight the widespread recognition of the importance and impact of the Harvey Milk Plaza project.

We respectfully urge the Board of Supervisors to consider these voices of support and to approve the necessary measures to move this project forward. The realization of Harvey Milk Plaza will be a monumental step in honoring a trailblazer's legacy and providing a lasting resource for education, reflection, and community engagement.

Thank you for your attention and consideration. We look forward to your favorable response and are available to discuss any aspects of the project in further detail.

Warm regards,

Brian Springfield, Executive Director
The Friends of Harvey Milk Plaza

Attachments: Letters of Support for Harvey Milk Plaza Project



February 22, 2024

Subject: Letter of Support for Friends of Harvey Milk Plaza

To whom it may concern:

SF Travel is pleased to provide our wholehearted support for the proposed redesign of the Harvey Milk Plaza as presented by the Friends of the Harvey Milk Plaza to our organization in November 2023.

Harvey Milk Plaza is a place of historic significance and stands as a worldwide symbol of the values our city holds most dear. As the site of numerous significant marches and protests, including the Candlelight Vigil that departed from Castro Street at the intersection on the evening of the assassinations of Harvey Milk and Mayor Moscone, and then headed toward to the San Francisco City Hall.

The Plaza—visited by thousands of locals every day and by countless visitors who want to see the Castro and learn about the City's LGBTQ+ community and history—has earned this opportunity to be re-imagined and to continue to be a beacon of our community's sense of welcome.

The proposed new design goes far beyond providing an improved alternative to the current design; it offers a vision of a civic space that promises to become a must-see attraction for those who visit or live in San Francisco. The new design also carefully weaves in improvements to accessibility at the Castro Muni Station and enhances the beauty of the Castro neighborhood, one of our city's most well-known and beloved places.

Whether evaluating the Friends of Harvey Milk Plaza's attached design for funding, licenses or permits, or permission to proceed, please be advised that SF Travel encourages those evaluating to do so favorably.

Warmly,

Scott Beck
President & CEO



Subject: Letter of Support for Friends of Harvey Milk Plaza

To whom it may concern:

The San Francisco Chamber of Commerce is pleased to support the proposed redesign of the Harvey Milk Plaza as presented by the Friends of the Harvey Milk Plaza to the Chamber on August 30, 2023.

Harvey Milk Plaza is a place of historic importance dating back to the days when crowds would gather to hear Harvey Milk speak and to participate in marches and protests. Over the years, the Plaza has continued to be an important home base and gathering space that connects and inspires the community.

Unfortunately, the plaza has fallen into disrepair with constant flooding during the rainy season, an inaccessible and unsightly garden, and moisture and discoloration, which has occurred over time. The Plaza—visited by thousands of commuters every day and by countless tourists who want to visit the Castro and learn about the City’s LGBTQIQ community and history—is no longer the beacon of hope that it once was and no longer sets a desirable tone.

The new design presents a fresh, exciting alternative to the current design, and it will also improve accessibility and enhance the beauty of the neighborhood.

Whether evaluating the Friends of Harvey Milk Plaza’s attached design for funding, licenses or permits, or permission to proceed, please be advised that the San Francisco Chamber of Commerce encourages those evaluating to do so favorably.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rodney Fong", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Rodney Fong
President & CEO
San Francisco Chamber of Commerce

235 Montgomery St., Ste. 760
San Francisco, CA 94104
415.392.4520
info@sfchamber.com



Thursday, 02 September 2021

Subject: Letter of Support for
Friends of Harvey Milk Plaza
1074 Folsom St
San Francisco, CA 94103

To whom it may concern:

Castro Merchants is writing to publicly express its support for the proposed redesign of Harvey Milk Plaza as presented by the Friends of Harvey Milk Plaza to the Castro Merchants membership on 02 September 2021.

As with other neighborhood organizations, Castro Merchants has been waiting with bated breath to see what the Friends of Harvey Milk Plaza would come up with. When a design had been announced, Castro Merchants invited representatives Brian Springfield and Daniel Cunningham to showcase it at our monthly member meeting on 02 September 2021. The design was greeted with excitement, and a motion was raised to issue a Letter of Support of the design. Our membership voted, and the motion easily passed: Castro Merchants supports the design they were shown.

The current state of Harvey Milk Plaza is an increasingly worsening stain on both the legacy of Harvey Milk and the Castro itself. With the flooding upon every rainfall, the inaccessible and unsightly garden, the moisture and time discoloration, and ersatz brutalist cum brick design, it captures nothing of the hope that Harvey Milk inspires in so many. As it is the first and last thing many visitors to the Castro see, it does not set a desirable tone.

[continued on next page]

Whether evaluating the Friends of Harvey Milk Plaza's attached design for funding, licenses or permits, or permission to proceed, please be advised that Merchants of Upper Market and Castro, Inc., D.B.A. Castro Merchants, the merchants association of record whose footprint Harvey Milk Plaza falls within, officially encourages those evaluating to do so favorably, as we have.

Supportively,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Masood", followed by a long, horizontal, wavy line that extends to the right.

Masood Samereie, President
Castro Merchants

September 20, 2021

Brian Springfield
Executive Director
Friends of Harvey Milk Plaza
brian@friendsofharveymilkplaza.org

RE: Letter of support for Redesign of Harvey Milk Plaza

Dear Brian,

It is my pleasure to share that the Castro LGBTQ Cultural District advisory board has passed a motion to provide this letter of support for the redesign of Harvey Milk Plaza.

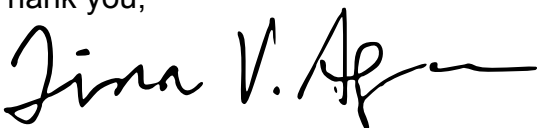
Thank you for presenting iterations of the design in progress over the last few months and thank you and Sister Tilda for meeting with us at our last advisory board meeting on September 15, 2021. Your work to seek and integrate feedback, even when it is challenging and divergent from plans that were already developed, was very helpful in this process. The design firm you worked with was open to feedback and incorporated many of our recommendations.

I am glad that we were in agreement that Harvey Milk's legacy is that of coalition building among people of color community organizers, gay liberation front groups, and radical feminists. Because of this, I am glad that this redesign elevates the representation and priorities of LGBTQ people of color, transgender individuals, and lesbians and queer women.

We look forward to playing a role in ensuring the the curation of images in the new plaza and the use of the space both function to enhance racial, gender and queer equity in the Castro. This is important for LGBTQ people who live in, work in, and visit the Castro.

Our Mission: The Castro LGBTQ Cultural District is committed to preserving, sustaining, and promoting the rich cultural legacy of the Castro and its significance to San Francisco's LGBTQ+ community and beyond. Our goals are to highlight the structures and sites important to our history; foster racial, ethnic, gender and cultural diversity among residents and businesses; and create a safe, beautiful, and inclusive space for LGBTQ+ and allied communities, to visit from around the world and call the Castro home.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Tina V. Aguirre" with a stylized flourish at the end.

Tina Aguirre (they/them/theirs)
Castro LGBTQ Cultural District Manager



November 9, 2021

Dear Brian,

The Castro Community Benefit District is writing to express its strong support for the Memorial at Harvey Milk Plaza. As the city rises from this pandemic is the perfect time to reclaim this important public space in the Castro and to show the world that the Castro is still the leader in the fight for social justice and LGBT rights. And to create a world class destination at Castro and Market so that tourists and visitors from across the globe will continue to come to the Castro and support our small businesses.

Our small businesses need this reimagined plaza. To thrive, our small businesses need regular foot traffic, not just on weekends or in June. This reimagined plaza will draw people over and over again to visit the Castro

The Castro MUNI Station has long been an area of blight for the Castro and though in 1985, it was named to honor Harvey Milk, it has never lived up to this huge responsibility. Over the years, the space has degraded so that at this point many have little hope that it can be revitalized and brought up to world class standards to give justice to its namesake, Harvey Milk.

The Memorial at Harvey Milk Plaza does this. It has been able to cleverly thread the needle to boldly honor Harvey's bright personality and inspiring message, provide the neighborhood with critical space to gather, create a space that will attract visitors, be easier to manage from a public safety and public realm perspective and has garnered significant community support. The Castro CBD Board of Directors believes that this new improved public space in the Castro will serve to not only appropriately honor Harvey Milk, but to also help to revitalize the Castro and support our small businesses by bringing increased visitors and foot traffic to the Castro. The Memorial at Harvey Milk Plaza will become a significant and meaningful destination point in San Francisco, a place where people will come to visit, to learn and to be inspired and to tell their friends back home to visit. The creation of this new public space is an important step in the revitalization of the Castro. The time to build It is now.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Justine Shoemaker". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end of the last name.

Justine Shoemaker
President

Castro Community Benefit District
693 14th Street
S.F., CA 94114
www.castrocbd.org
415-500-1181



ALICE B. TOKLAS
LESBIAN • GAY • BISEXUAL • TRANS • QUEER
DEMOCRATIC CLUB

October 12, 2021

To Whom It May Concern:

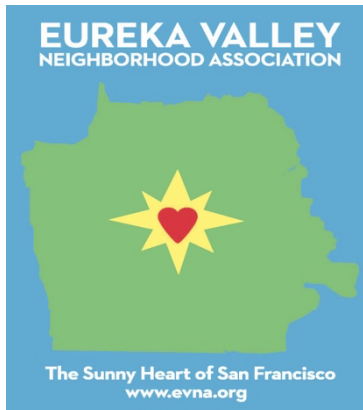
The Alice B. Toklas LGBTQ Democratic Club is dedicated to advocating for human rights, social and economic justice, and equality for all persons, foremost the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer community. We strive to ensure that all persons are valued and represented, regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity. As a community-based and community-focused organization, we recognize and appreciate the outreach efforts undertaken by the Friends of Harvey Milk Plaza and support their continued efforts to include in the process as many voices from as wide a range of the community as is possible.

Many of our members use the Castro Muni Station in their daily lives as a transportation hub. For these members, along with all Castro neighborhood residents, any work that improves the usability and efficiency of the station is most welcome, as is any work to create new usable public and park space that will provide benefits to the neighborhood and create opportunities to strengthen the community through activation.

We support improving Harvey Milk Plaza so that it accurately represents Harvey's enduring place in history as a civil rights leader of global significance and celebrates both his message of hope and his call to action toward greater social justice for all marginalized people.

Sincerely,

Gary McCoy, Co-Chair
Alice B. Toklas LGBTQ Democratic Club
2261 Market Street #1800
San Francisco, CA 94114



EVNA
PO Box 14137
San Francisco, CA 94114
www.evna.org
board@evna.org
Individual Emails:
first.last@evna.org

EVNA, a non-profit organization,
Tax ID: 51-0141022

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Alex Lemberg, President

[Vacant], Vice President

Andrew Gabel, Secretary

Kevin Cureton, Treasurer

DIRECTORS AT LARGE

Desmond Morgan

Mary Edna Harrell

Loïc Olichon

Rob LeVan

PAST PRESIDENT

Mark D McHale

WEBMASTER

Steve Clark Hall

EUREKA VALLEY NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

The neighborhood association for the Castro, Upper Market and all of Eureka Valley since 1881

San Francisco Arts Commission
401 Van Ness Ave., Suite 325
San Francisco, CA 94102
Via Email: maysoun.wazwaz@sfgov.org; cc: Brian Springfield, EVNA Board

September 19, 2021

RE: EVNA Support for Friends of Harvey Milk Plaza Redesign

Dear Esteemed Arts Commissioners,

The Eureka Valley Neighborhood Association (EVNA) is the oldest continuously operating neighborhood association in San Francisco established in 1881. For 140 years, our members have been working to make this neighborhood a great place to live, work and play. As the City begins to reopen and rebuild from the COVID-19 pandemic, we are excited to see big new projects in our neighborhood and elsewhere.

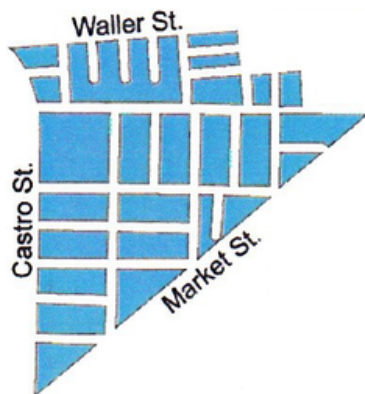
To that end, on September 14, 2021, the EVNA Board voted unanimously to support the present iteration of the community-driven redesign of Harvey Milk Plaza, being presented at your September 20, 2021 hearing by the Friends of Harvey Milk Plaza (FHMP).

The EVNA and its leadership have continued to be impressed by the robustness of the community process led by FHMP and is very pleased with the present design. The Castro has been struggling to attract tourists and has a large space at the center of the neighborhood (Harvey Milk Plaza) that has long been unusable and inaccessible. The EVNA believes that this design meaningfully addresses the space's current shortcomings and notes that FHMP has incorporated a massive amount of community feedback since the last time this matter has been heard by this Commission.

We urge you to support and approve this excellent design as presented by FHMP.

Respectfully,

Alex Lemberg
President, EVNA



Duboce Triangle Neighborhood Association

2261 Market Street, PMB #301, San Francisco, CA 94114

www.dtna.org

September 16th, 2021

To: San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency
San Francisco Arts Commission
Supervisor Rafael Mandelman

From: Duboce Triangle Neighborhood Association

Re: Harvey Milk Plaza & Castro MUNI Station

To whom it may concern,

The Duboce Triangle Neighborhood Association (DTNA) is writing to support the Friends of Harvey Milk Plaza's proposed renovation and re-design of Harvey Milk Plaza and Castro Street MUNI Station.

The Friends presented at DTNA's August Land Use and General meetings. Neighbors were invited to share their opinions and ask questions. A common theme at both meetings was the importance of accessibility. Our neighbors were adamant that everyone, no matter their mobility status, should be able to enjoy all features of the plaza. In response, The Friends updated their design to be more accessible - including a new ramp to the "pedestal" - ensuring all are welcome to utilize the new space. We applaud The Friend's outreach and extensive survey work to learn from and include the broader community.

DTNA understands that the design of the new Plaza and Concourse is iterative. We support the overall intent and wish to stay involved in the development. We request that DTNA be made aware of any significant changes and updates as the project moves forward.

The Duboce Triangle Neighborhood Association supports Friends of the Harvey Milk Plaza's goals to create a new public space centered around hope and action. The new plaza will be a long-overdue improvement to the existing conditions, a proper terminus to the Market Street corridor, and a proud entrance for the Castro. We look forward to this investment in our transportation infrastructure and enjoying a new public space worthy of our neighborhood.

On behalf of the DTNA Board,

Kevin Riley | DTNA Land Use Chair

CAPITOL OFFICE
STATE CAPITOL, ROOM 5100
SACRAMENTO, CA 95814
TEL (916) 651-4011
FAX (916) 651-4911

DISTRICT OFFICE
455 GOLDEN GATE AVENUE
SUITE 14800
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94102
TEL (415) 557-1300
FAX (415) 557-1252

SENATOR.WIENER@SENATE.CA.GOV

California State Senate

SENATOR
SCOTT WIENER

威善高

ELEVENTH SENATE DISTRICT



ASSISTANT MAJORITY WHIP
LEGISLATIVE JEWISH CAUCUS
VICE CHAIR
MENTAL HEALTH CAUCUS
CHAIR
COMMITTEES:
HOUSING
CHAIR
GOVERNANCE & FINANCE
HEALTH
JUDICIARY
PUBLIC SAFETY
LEGISLATIVE ETHICS
CHAIR
SELECT COMMITTEE ON
MENTAL HEALTH & ADDICTION
CHAIR

September 16, 2021

Kimberlee Stryker, Chair
Civic Design Review Committee
San Francisco Arts Commission
401 Van Ness Ave., Suite 325
San Francisco, CA 94102

Dear Chair Stryker,

I am writing this letter to express my strong support for the Memorial at Harvey Milk Plaza, led by the community based organization Friends of Harvey Milk Plaza. The project has come a long way since the Conceptual Review in 2018, and has gained a significant amount of community support and input during community meetings held in April and June of this year.

The design before you achieves a lot when it comes to increasing accessibility to the MUNI Station and flattening site lines to improve public safety issues. However, most importantly, this design is a memorial to Harvey Milk. The memorial has been designed to remain engaged with the community – built with the flexibility to acknowledge all groups working toward social justice.

When completed, the Castro and San Francisco will finally have a memorial to Harvey Milk at Harvey Milk Plaza that is commensurate with Harvey's importance to the larger LGBTQ movement. The corner of Castro and Market will be transformed to honor Harvey and the LGBTQ community. It is for these reasons I have secured critical early funding for this important civic project – first \$1 million, and now, in this year's state budget, \$1.5 million. This funding will allow the project to achieve "shovel ready" status by summer 2022.

If you have any questions about my support for this project, please do not hesitate to contact Jeff Sparks in my office at jeff.sparks@sen.ca.gov or at (415) 557-1300.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Scott Wiener".

Scott Wiener
Senator

From: [Brian Springfield](#)
To: [Board of Supervisors \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Budget & Finance Committee Agenda item #240498 - Letter of Support, Stuart Milk
Date: Friday, June 21, 2024 3:27:53 PM
Attachments: [Letter of Support - Stuart Milk.pdf](#)

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

Please find attached a letter of support for Agenda Item #240498 from Stuart Milk.

Thank you,
Brian

--

Brian Springfield, Executive Director
he/him/his

The Friends of Harvey Milk Plaza

San Francisco, CA 94114

brian@friendsofharveymilkplaza.org | (415) 378-9577

Thursday June 20, 2024

San Francisco Board of Supervisors
City Hall
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place
San Francisco, CA 94102

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I urge the Board of Supervisors to support this project, recognizing its potential to positively impact the community and preserve Harvey Milk's legacy. By supporting the Harvey Milk Plaza, you are contributing to a future that embraces diversity, champions human rights, and honors the memory of a trailblazer who gave his life in the line of justice and freedom.

Thank you for your consideration and for your commitment to creating a more inclusive and equitable society.

Sincerely,

Stuart Milk
Milk family spokesperson
Chair, Harvey Milk Foundation

From: [Brian Springfield](#)
To: [Board of Supervisors \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Re: Budget & Finance Committee Agenda item #240498 - Letter of Support
Date: Friday, June 21, 2024 3:26:33 PM
Attachments: [FHMP Honorary Committee LOS.pdf](#)

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

with attachment

BSD

On Fri, Jun 21, 2024 at 3:21 PM Brian Springfield <brian@friendsofharveymilkplaza.org> wrote:

Please find attached a letter of support for Agenda Item #240498 from the Friends of Harvey Milk Plaza Honorary Committee.

Thank you,
Brian

--

Brian Springfield, Executive Director
he/him/his

The Friends of Harvey Milk Plaza

San Francisco, CA 94114

brian@friendsofharveymilkplaza.org | (415) 378-9577

--

Brian Springfield, Executive Director
he/him/his

The Friends of Harvey Milk Plaza

San Francisco, CA 94114

brian@friendsofharveymilkplaza.org | (415) 378-9577



June 21, 2024

San Francisco Board of Supervisors
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place
San Francisco, CA 94102

Dear Members of the San Francisco Board of Supervisors,

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Harvey Milk was a trailblazer whose dedication to social justice and equality transcended the LGBTQ+ community, leaving an indelible mark on the Castro, our city, and the world. The proposed Harvey Milk Plaza is more than just a physical space; it is a symbol of hope, resilience, and the enduring fight for human rights.

We believe that the new Harvey Milk Plaza will become an iconic landmark, drawing visitors from around the globe and reinforcing San Francisco's reputation as a beacon of diversity and inclusion. Furthermore, we have witnessed the strong support this project has received from members of the LGBTQ+ community in San Francisco, as well as the broader community, and are inspired by how this vision has unified a wide variety of viewpoints and interests.

We urge the Board of Supervisors to approve the necessary measures to bring this important project to fruition. Your support will not only honor Harvey Milk's memory but also reinforce San Francisco's commitment to equality, diversity, and human rights.

Thank you for your consideration and your dedication to preserving the rich history and values of our City.

Sincerely,

Rob Epstein

Academy Award Winning Director, Writer,
Producer, *"The Times of Harvey Milk"*

Joshua "Peaches Christ" Grannell

Entertainer, Filmmaker, Event Producer

Cleve Jones

Activist, Author & Community Leader

Anne Kronenberg

Activist, Civil Servant,
Harvey's 1977 Campaign Manager

Juanita MORE!

Activist, Entertainer, Community Organizer

Dan Nicoletta

Photographer & Artist

Tom Nolan

Transportation Leader, Activist

Sister Roma

Sisters of the Perpetual Indulgence

Donna Sachet

LGBT Activist and Entertainer

Jeff Sheehy

Former SF Supervisor - District 8

Gary Virginia

Past President, SF Pride

Sen. Scott Wiener

CA State Senator - District 11

From: [Brian Springfield](#)
To: [Board of Supervisors \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Budget & Finance Committee Agenda item #240498 - Letter of Support
Date: Friday, June 21, 2024 3:21:28 PM

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

Please find attached a letter of support for Agenda Item #240498 from the Friends of Harvey Milk Plaza Honorary Committee.

Thank you,
Brian

--

Brian Springfield, Executive Director
he/him/his

The Friends of Harvey Milk Plaza

San Francisco, CA 94114

brian@friendsofharveymilkplaza.org | (415) 378-9577

From: [Stern, Julie](#)
To: [Somera, Alisa \(BOS\)](#); [Calvillo, Angela \(BOS\)](#); [Board of Supervisors \(BOS\)](#)
Cc: [Miriam Richter](#)
Subject: Fwd: Harvey Milk Plaza
Date: Friday, June 21, 2024 8:36:01 AM
Attachments: [Letter of Support - Stuart Milk.pdf](#)

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Dear Honorable Members of the Board of Supervisors:

Please find attached and below a letter for your kind consideration sent by Stuart Milk on behalf of both the Family of Harvey Milk and of the Harvey Milk Foundation

Thursday June 20, 2024

**San Francisco Board of Supervisors
City Hall
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place
San Francisco, CA 94102**

Dear Honorable Members of the San Francisco Board of Supervisors,

As both the nephew of Harvey Milk, the family spokesperson, and founder of the Harvey Milk Foundation. I am honored to support the Harvey Milk Plaza project, which holds vital historical and personal significance to all of us and to the greater legacy of my uncle.

Harvey was not only a loving uncle but he is a critically important and pioneering figure in the global LGBTQ+ rights movement. His legacy continues to inspire countless communities and civil society movements across the globe. The Harvey Milk Plaza project represents more than a tribute to his memory; it is a beacon of hope and progress for future generations.

This project aims to transform the existing space into a vibrant, inclusive, and educational environment. By creating a plaza that celebrates Harvey's life and accomplishments, we are providing a gathering place where both the residents of San Francisco and folks from around the world can connect with the importance of equality, diversity, and be inspired for their own activism.

The Harvey Milk Plaza project is not just a local initiative but a symbol of global importance. It serves as a reminder of the strides we have made in the fight for LGBTQ+ rights and the work that still lies ahead. The plaza will be a testament to Uncle Harvey's enduring impact and a source of inspiration for those who continue to advocate for justice and equality.

I urge the Board of Supervisors to support this project, recognizing its potential to positively impact the community and preserve Harvey Milk's legacy. By supporting the Harvey Milk Plaza, you are contributing to a future that embraces diversity, champions human rights, and honors the memory of a trailblazer who gave his life in the line of justice and freedom.

Thank you for your consideration and for your commitment to creating a more inclusive and equitable society.

Sincerely,

Stuart Milk
Milk family spokesperson
Chair, Harvey Milk Foundation

Regards,

Julie Stern
Executive Coordinator
Harvey Milk Foundation
A legacy of global equality
Julie@MilkFoundation.org



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Thank you for your consideration and for your commitment to creating a more inclusive and equitable society.

Sincerely,

Stuart Milk
Milk family spokesperson
Chair, Harvey Milk Foundation

Patrick Monette-Shaw

975 Sutter Street, Apt. 6

San Francisco, CA 94109

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July 10, 2024

Board of Supervisors Budget and Finance Committee

The Honorable Connie Chan, Chair

The Honorable Rafael Mandelman, Member

The Honorable Mryna Melgar, Member

1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place

San Francisco, CA 94102

Re: **Testimony on File 240497 Healthy, Safe, and Vibrant San Francisco
Bond Measure November 2024**

Dear Chair Chan, and Members of the Budget and Finance Committee,

Regarding agenda item # 3 on the Budget and Finance Committee's July 10 meeting agenda, both the Budget and Legislative Analyst and Budget and Finance Committee Chair Connie Chan have called for amendments to the language in the proposed Ordinance being considered today.

Both Chair Chan and the BLA noted that this \$390 million Bond is different than what the Capital Planning Committee had originally approved in the current "*Capital Plan*."

I join them in recommending that this Budget and Finance

Committee reject approval today of the \$390 million General Obligation Bond for the November 2024 municipal election in order to make changes to Legislative File Version #2 of the proposed language to be put before the voters for several reasons. This item should be tabled, at a minimum.

Supervisor Chan Letter to Mayor Breed dated June 7, 2024

Supervisor Chan's letter to Mayor Breed indicated that she is concerned elements of this Bond proposal are a departure from the "*City's Ten-Year Capital Expenditure Plan*" approved by the Budget and Appropriations Committee on May 3, 2023, adopted by the Board of Supervisors on May 9, 2023, and signed by Mayor Breed on May 19 of the same year.

Chan also wrote this Board of Supervisors know based on the 2023 approved "*Capital Plan*," that the Chinatown Public Health Center Seismic Retrofit, Silver Avenue Family Health Center Renovation, SF General Hospital Building 3 Retrofit and Renovation, City Clinic Relocation, Critical Infrastructure Repairs for both Laguna Honda Hospital and General Hospital should be high-priority public health bond projects in 2024. Chan rightfully noted these are all essential public health infrastructures that deliver vital health care to San Francisco residents.

Chan also wrote to the Mayor that The City ought to consider other emerging public health projects at General Hospital, such as SFGH Campus Security Enhancements and other aging infrastructure projects addressing long outstanding needs.

But I wholeheartedly disagree that the proposed \$18.5 million childcare center at SFGH (Capital Planning Committee project ID #1105) is an essential, pressing, or high-priority essential public health need. After all, LHH also doesn't have a childcare facility for its employees, and there are many other City Departments that don't have childcare centers for City employees, either. It would be a disservice to divert scarce City healthcare funds away from San Franciscans experiencing a lack of healthcare services in order to provide a childcare "*perk*" for select City employees!

Chan informed Breed that including of \$68.9 million for street improvements in the proposed \$390 million General Obligation Bond, plus \$30 million for public plaza and parks improvements may reflect important infrastructure needs, but are obviously **not** critical public health safety needs. The projects Chan mentioned total at least \$98.9 million.

"Both the Budget and Legislative Analyst and Chair Connie Chan have called for amendments to the language in today's proposed Ordinance."

"They both noted this \$390 million Bond is different than what the Capital Planning Committee had originally approved in the City's current 'Capital Plan'."

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However, page 4 of the updated BLA report dated July 10 being presented today lists those two projects at \$63.9 million and \$71 million, respectively, for a total of \$134.9 million, not \$98.9 million. In addition the BLA's report also includes \$50 million for homeless shelters for the Department of Homelessness and Supportive Services. Shelters are also not a public health-related project, and that \$50 million drives the total in this proposed bond unrelated to critical public health projects to \$184.9 million.

Chan rightfully noted there are alternative funding sources for those projects that should be explored, and enumerated a list of alternative funding sources. They should **NOT** be included in this proposed Bonds.

Chan astutely noted that we must prioritize the health and safety of San Franciscans and those who provide them with healthcare. She asked the Mayor to prioritize the City's bond dollars and capital investments in public health projects.

I wholeheartedly agree with Supervisor Chan in her role as Budget and Finance Committee Chair.

Budget and Legislative Analyst's Two Reports

The BLA's July 10 report notes this proposed bond is estimated to total debt service payments of \$737 million, including approximately \$347 million in interest and \$390 million in principal. The interest on this Bond is almost equal to the \$390 million principal, which suggests alternate sources of financing should be pursued, including using annual Facilities Maintenance funds awarded through the City's annual Departmental budget awards.

Like Supervisor Chan, the BLA also noted this proposed Bond is different in amount and scope from the ten-year "*Capital Plan*" the Board of Supervisors approved in May 2023. That capital plan does not include increased operating costs resulting from capital spending projects.

The BLA recommended in his July 10 BLA report that the Board of Supervisors should request City Departments to report on operating cost impacts of capital projects when requesting Board approval of issuances from proposed bond authorizations. There doesn't seem to be any documents in all of the background files for today's Agenda item on this Bond, or any reports from City Departments any detail about the operating cost impacts of capital projects.

Voters should have access to that information prior to the November 2024 election.

The BLA report notes that the Mayor and Board may update the ten-year "*Capital Plan*," as appropriate. The BLA noted in the "*Background Section*" of his report, that the general obligation bond schedule for March 2024 and November 2024 is different than what originally approved in the "*Capital Plan*," but the Board of Supervisors has not taken formal action to amend the Capital Plan to reflect those changes and increases in the March 2024 Bond, the proposed November 2024 bond, or the Bond proposed for November 2026.

List of Projects to Be Funded Not Yet Final

Shockingly, the BLA noted a list of projects is not fully known at this time. but includes work to address life safety and *less urgent* work to beautify public spaces. The BLA recommended that City Departments should be requested to report

“ Chan informed Breed that including \$68.9 million for street improvements plus \$30 million for public plaza and parks improvements that total at least \$98.9 million are obviously not critical public health safety needs.

Today's updated BLA report lists those two projects at a total of \$134.9 million, not \$98.9 million.”

“ Chan asked the Mayor to prioritize the City's bond dollars and capital investments in public health projects.

I wholeheartedly agree with Supervisor Chan in her role as Budget Chair.”

“ Shockingly, the BLA noted a list of projects is not fully known at this time and includes less urgent work to beautify public spaces. He indicated the full list of projects to be funded by this Bond will only become known and enumerated at the point City Departments return to the Board of Supervisors seeking approval of Bond sales.”

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on operating cost impacts of capital projects when requesting Board approval of issuances from the proposed bond authorization. That is far too late in the process to inform voters about what they are being asked to vote on.

The BLA appears to have indicated the full list of projects to be funded by this Bond will only become known and enumerated at the point City Departments return to the Board of Supervisors for approval of Bond sales, if then at all. The BLA's statement that the projects to be funded should be known and named at the point of requesting permission to actually sell the Bonds seems to suggest these projects will only become known and explicitly be named — if at all — at that point, and may not have become known when Bonds for other projects have been issued in the past.

The BLA also requested City Departments report to the Board of Supervisors criteria on how projects will be prioritized for Bond funding, either at the June 26, 2024 Budget and Finance meeting or in a letter to be included in the legislative files for these items.

Of note, in all of the background files for today's Agenda item on this Bond, there does **not** seem to be any letters in the background materials from any City Department, and not in either of the June 26 or July 10 "*Committee Packets*" with a response to the BLA or to the Board of Supervisors on how projects will be prioritized for Bond funding should the proposed ballot measure be approved by the voters.

Because most projects that will be funded by the proposed bonds are still in the design phase and do not have environmental approval, we do not know the full set of projects that will actually be funded by this proposed Bond.

Misinformation Provided to San Francisco Health Commission

San Francisco's Director of Public Health, Grant Colfax, has falsely asserted in public meetings of the Health Commission that Mayor Breed's and Board President Peskin's announced November 2024 "*Healthy, Safe and Vibrant San Francisco Bond*" ballot will "*fully fund needed capital repairs for SFGH and LHH.*" It's clear Colfax was engaging in semantic backflips, without parsing context. In other words, he wasn't telling the truth.

Although this proposed Bond increases funds for SFGH/LHH capital projects by \$10 million — from \$56 million initially announced by having moved \$10 million around from street improvement projects and other public space accessibility projects — that \$66 million in this bond won't "*fully fund*" either of the SFGH and LHH facility's capital projects.

On May 6, 2024, the Capital Planning Committee itemized FY25 and FY26 "*asks*" of \$134.7 million for SFGH and \$68.5 million for LHH capital projects, totalling \$203.2 million. This Bond's \$66 million for the two hospitals represents 32.5% of full funding, less than one-third asks.

Of an additional \$38 million for the two hospitals in Mayor Breed's proposed annual City budget, at least \$9.2 million is generic, routine "*facilities maintenance*" for SFDPH facilities, not capital repairs!

Colfax should have avoided use of the adverb "*fully*" when he wrongly claimed LHH's repairs have been quote, "fully funded."

I, for one, will be voting against the November bond measure, because all we have seen in the pre-election "*Bond Report*" marketing materials doing even more semantic backflips is vague language Bond funds for SFGH and LHH, "*could allow*" funding projects at LHH like LHH's rooftop HVAC units, "*could fund*" replacement of LHH's power transformer, and "*could allow*" funding of LHH's emergency waste-holding system. But there's no actual list in the "*Bond Report*" of which projects will actually be funded, and perhaps none of those projects will actually receive any of the bond funds.

Worse, the current Section 3, "*Proposed Program*" in Legislative Version #2 of this proposed Ordinance containing the language that will appear on the November ballot and in the "Voter Guide" does **not** contain any lists of actual projects that either SFGH or LHH will receive funding from the \$66 million portion of this Bond.

“ On May 6, 2024 the Capital Planning Committee itemized FY25 and FY26 ‘asks’ of \$134.7 million for SFGH and \$68.5 million for LHH capital projects, totalling \$203.2 million. This Bond’s \$66 million for the two hospitals represents 32.5% of full funding, less than one-third of their asks.”

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As it is, on May 6 the Capital Planning Committee approved \$800,000 for Fiscal Year 2025 of the projected \$5.6 million LHH requested for its “*NPC Sewage Emergency Containment*” project to deal with wastewater holding tanks. How much of the \$66 million for SFGH and LHH combined in the November bod will go towards fully funding the remaining \$4.8 million needed for LHH’s wastewater-holding system? Obviously, we’re not being told, probably for a good reason that it may not be funded — let alone, fully funded — at all.

This Budget and Finance Committee should **not** forward a positive recommendation to the full Board of Supervisors, unless and until Chair Chan’s and the BLA’s concerns are fully incorporated, including removing the \$184.9 million that are **not** Public Health priority projects and don’t even belong in this proposed Bond.

Respectfully submitted,

Patrick Monette-Shaw

Columnist/Reporter

Westside Observer Newspaper

cc: The Honorable Aaron Peskin, Supervisor, District 3
The Honorable Catherine Stefani, Supervisor, District 1
The Honorable Joel Engardio, District 14
The Honorable Dean Preston, Supervisor, District 5
The Honorable Matt Dorsey, Supervisor, District 6
The Honorable Myrna Melgar, Supervisor, District 7
The Honorable Hillary Ronen, Supervisor, District 9
The Honorable Ahsha Safai, Supervisor, District 11

“ This Budget Committee should not forward a positive recommendation to the full Board of Supervisors, unless and until Chair Chan’s and the BLA’s concerns are fully incorporated, including removing the \$184.9 million in projects that are not Public Health priority projects and don’t even belong in this proposed Bond. ”
