

SUBMITTED W/ COMMITTEE

10/30/17

2/2/2017

## Colton Windsor

Twice in my lifetime I have been told I have less than six months to live. Through the miracle of medical advances, I have beaten the prognosis and continued the fight. Ten years ago, with the last miracle of new medications, I boldly took the opportunity to fulfill a lifelong dream of living in San Francisco. Upon arriving, I quickly found my life's purpose, working for the Human Rights Campaign (HRC) in their Action Center and Shop in the historic Castro District. Through this position with HRC I am able to affect real change in our Nation's, State's, City's and individual citizen's lives by striving for equality for the LGBTQI community. An added opportunity, being the liaison for HRC to the HIV/AIDS community, I've been able to assist other organizations achieve goals to improve safety issues, medical care, and limit or end discrimination.

Now, I find my life threatened again. Not by health issues but by the termination of the Below Market Rent (BMR) program at Tower 737 Apartments. Disability benefits and part-time employment do not provide an income that allows me to afford Market Rate rent in San Francisco. With the termination of the BMR program and the first of three approximately \$700 rent increases scheduled to bring my home up to Market Rate, I face being homeless as of March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2017.

I have frantically searched for a new housing situation but have found none. Rent programs in the city or surrounding areas are either closed or the wait list is several years long. Sequoia's recent sixty (60) day notice to bring my home up to Market Rate has not given me enough time to resolve my housing crisis. Even if I give up my dreams of living in San Francisco and a purposeful career I can't afford the costs of relocating.

In San Francisco, I have built a community which supports me, encourages me, and allows me to thrive. Tower 737 is my home. Please! ... give me one more Miracle and allow me to continue living at Tower 737, at an affordable rate, so I can continue to live with dignity, a sense of contribution, and purpose.



HUMAN  
RIGHTS  
CAMPAIGN®

January 18, 2017

To Whom It May Concern:

As a non-profit organization, the Human Rights Campaign works tirelessly on a daily basis fighting for fair and equal rights for the LGBTQ community.

We cannot continue our work without the dedication and integrity of our San Francisco staff, specifically Colton Windsor, who selflessly gives his time and his heart to our cause.

As we all know, the cost of basic needs in this city continues to rise. These increased cost are a heavy burden on the daily lives of many of San Francisco's long-term residents.

We cannot continue our mission without a dedicated team and Colton, most assuredly, is the heart of the Human Rights Campaign team here in San Francisco.

Colton has been a part of our team for ten years and without his selfless dedication, we would be missing an integral and valuable part of our organization.

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As a non-profit organization, it is impossible to compete with the finance and technology salaries that continue to rapidly rise in the Bay Area. These are the same companies and organizations that we work with day in and day out to ensure that they are protecting and providing a safe space for their LGBTQ employees. A concerted effort that we believe reflects the image San Francisco aims to portray.

Unfortunately, as the Bay Area continues to see economic success, we continue to lose team members due to being priced out. As a result, individuals such as Colton, simply cannot afford the monthly rent in order to live in the city.

We believe that those not just on our team, but also our families, friends, patrons, and neighbors benefit from the work that we do. The work that Colton does.

We are concerned that the displacement of the city's established residents will inherently affect it's progressive and fair-minded reputation.

We ask that you please consider what the loss of another dedicated, community minded, hardworking San Franciscan means. To us, it means losing a friend who puts people and community first. It means losing a much needed part of a productive and focused team. Losing Colton Windsor means losing another brilliantly colorful thread in the fabric that makes this city so amazing.

Sincerely,

Shane Martin  
General Manager  
HRC San Francisco

Housing Rights Committee SF  
1663 Mission/13th Street, Suite 504  
San Francisco CA 94103

January 16, 2017

To Whom it May Concern,

I am writing you in support of my friend and colleague, Colton Windsor, who will soon be homeless if the "Below Market Rent" program is discontinued from his residence at Tower 737 Apartments in San Francisco.

First, I cannot stress enough the positive, educational contributions Colton has made and continues to make on behalf of all San Francisco residents, tourists and visitors, and those giants of city history whose legacy we must always strive to remember. I serve with Colton on the board of the Rainbow Honor Walk, a nonprofit entity that fundraises and places special bronze plaques on sidewalks throughout the Castro District that honors the historic legacy of LGBT pioneers who have left an impact on World Culture. Colton is a passionate historian and civic volunteer. By volunteering with the Human Rights Commission/Under One Roof, Colton is literally the Rainbow Honor Walk's "eyes on the street." The stories he's told us of visitor and tourist comments as they encounter our sidewalk plaques has deeply influenced our votes and decision-making.

As we all know, the year 2017 opens on a troubling note for all who cherish the values of free speech, inclusion, and thriving diversity that have long defined progress cities such as San Francisco. One simply cannot avoid worrying about the city's role as a "Sanctuary City" for undocumented immigrants, or what might happen if Federal funding to California is curtailed for political reasons.

In such times, we must not forget to speak up and work for someone who is in danger of being forced out by one of San Francisco's ongoing, seemingly unsolvable problems—the ongoing shortage of affordable housing.

I am a journalist and I've covered the city's housing problems for the New York Times, San Francisco magazine, SF Business Journal, and other publications. I know how difficult and seemingly intractable this problem is for moderate-income earners, let alone people on disability and/or suffering from HIV/AIDS-related medical condition. I know recent graduates with medical degrees who have turned down job offers from UCSF because they couldn't afford the housing market! And these are people that have the financial resources to invest in condos or houses.

People like Colton make this a city worth visiting, worth living in. It is his daily, uncompensated efforts that help make San Francisco a more tolerant, educated, informed, and joyous place.

We need to keep Colton, and people like him, to stay in San Francisco. We will all benefit in countless ways by helping economically and culturally diverse population make San Francisco their home. Colton is not a statistic—he is a friend. I urge you to continue application of the Below Market Rent program at Tower 737 Apartments.

Sincerely,  
Barbara Tannenbaum  
11 Mabry Way  
San Rafael, CA 94903  
Email: [btannenbaum@earthlink.net](mailto:btannenbaum@earthlink.net)  
Website: <http://www.barbaratannenbaum.com>

**Charlotte Ninomiya Ruffner**  
649 1<sup>st</sup> Street West, No. 4, Sonoma, California 95476  
Cell: (415) 250-0665 Email: ruffnercharlotte@gmail.com

Housing Rights Committee  
San Francisco, CA

January 16, 2017

Dear Committee Members,

I am writing on behalf of M. Colton Windsor ("Colton"), a tenant in 737 Post Street, San Francisco. As you aware Colton is currently residing in a set aside unit for affordable housing. For some reason, the monthly rent is set to increase by \$724 in March 2017, and again by \$700 in December 2017, and then by another \$700 on December 1, 2018. These increases will throw Colton out onto the street. Something has to be done.

I am sure you will be reading loads of letters about how wonderful, kind and generous Colton is. Believe me, the letters are all true. I don't know a single person who has anything negative to say about Colton. He is the kind of person who would offer you his own coat on a cold day. It's now time for all of us to step up and do something nice for him.

Please let me start by telling you how disruptive and horrible it will be for Colton to have to find new affordable housing. First, Colton is HIV positive, all of his medical care is in San Francisco. Colton does not have a car and he uses MUNI to get around to all of his appointments. If he has to move, he will most likely have to relocate to a more affordable place, i.e., outside the city limits. This means he will have to replace all of his long time physicians and medical care facilities. Second, Colton works for the Human Rights Campaign store on Castro Street. Again he takes public transit to go to and from work. If he has to move, in all likelihood he would have to quit his job. I cannot think of a more disruptive set of circumstances -- to lose your housing, your job and your medical care all in one fell swoop.

I have known Colton since 2012, when we both started volunteering as board members on the Rainbow Honor Walk. Colton jumped right in generously donating his time, intelligence and creativity to our fundraising campaign. He created beautiful coffee mugs for the Rainbow Honor Walk to sell. He donated several art pieces to one of our silent auctions. He even hosted fundraising subcommittee meetings at his 737 Post Street apartment. I frankly cannot imagine the Rainbow Honor Walk without Colton.

Please do not let this one go. Do everything in your power to keep Colton at 737 Post Street, San Francisco.

Sincerely yours,

Charlotte N. Ruffner

January 18, 2017

Housing Rights Committee of San Francisco  
1663 Mission Street, Suite 504  
San Francisco, CA 94103

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing you today to express my extreme concern regarding the potential loss of affordable housing by a dear friend and colleague of mine, Mr. M. Colton Windsor.

Colton currently resides in apartment number 412 at Tower 737 apartments located at 737 Post Street in San Francisco. His apartment is one of the City and County of San Francisco's Below Market Rate (BMR) program.

I have known Colton since 2007. I know him as a friend, a work colleague at the Human Rights Campaign located at 575 Castro Street in San Francisco; a fellow Board member of the Rainbow Honor Walk committee, and as a fellow volunteer of the Castro Ambassadors program. Mr. Windsor is a thoughtful, insightful, dedicated, and compassionate human being. We are all fortunate to have him as a fellow resident of our city. His compassion knows no boundaries. While his own personal resources are limited and few, he NEVER ignores or denies the expressed needs of those less fortunate.

The City of San Francisco is indeed lucky to have him as a resident. Colton tirelessly gives of his time to projects such as the Castro Ambassador, volunteering to personally welcome visitors from around the world. I have personally witnessed time and time again, his taking the time to help visitors, whether it be at work or simply walking down the street. In addition, his volunteer work on behalf of the Rainbow Honor Walk, the city's national monument which has attracted thousands of tourists since its installation in 2012, has attributed tremendously to the community's sense of civic pride. The Walk honors the world's men and women who courageously and boldly proclaimed their sexual identity to the world at times when to do so put them in great personal and professional peril.

Working with Colton at the Human Rights Campaign has not only been a pleasure but a learning experience. On multiple occasions, I have witnessed hundreds of visitors to HRC, read personal letters addressed to him and spoke with visitors over the phone who shared their comments, all maintain one overarching theme: "Colton made me feel like I was special and went well out of his way to take time to talk to me, help me, educate me". His patience and empathy know no bounds.

Mr. Windsor is a terrific asset to the city, a one of a kind gift that the city of San Francisco is very fortunate to have received, and an ambassador that any city-organization-business would be proud to call its own. I implore you to do all in your power to assist him in retaining his affordable residence in San Francisco.

Sincerely,

Charles E. Roddy  
173 Delmar Street  
San Francisco, CA 94107  
Cell (774) 239-9136

**Housing Rights Committee**

**San Francisco, CA**

**Dear Committee Members,**

**Colton Windsor and I have been colleagues on the Rainbow Honor Walk Board of Directors for over three years. As you may know, our organization is responsible for installing twenty plaques along Castro Street and on nearby places on 19th Street to honor deceased, self-identified members of the LGBT Community who have made significant contributions to their fields. Additional plaques will be installed over the next few years. We are an all voluntary board.**

**Colton has been instrumental to the success of our project. His work with the Human Rights Campaign's (HRC's) Castro Street location enables him to meet with members of the public to discuss their reactions to the plaques. Many visitors are from places that are far less open and accepting than San Francisco and they share their experiences with Colton. He then conveys those discussions to the board.**

**Additionally, through Colton's leadership, the HRC has donated funds and raised money by selling mugs and other items to benefit the RHW. It has publicized our project, which has helped us in our mission to educate the public about the important contributions our community has made to society despite historically widespread ignorance, bigotry, and oppression.**

**Colton's excellent social skills, his positive attitude, his intelligence, kindness, strong work ethic, and critical thinking make him a great contributor to the RHW. Anyone who knows Colton benefits from that relationship. San Francisco benefits from having a man who exemplifies the best of our city's values living here.**

**The possibility that Colton may lose his home of so many years because of substantial rent increases and be forced to leave San Francisco is deeply disturbing. I know your Committee and Supervisor Peskin are doing everything you can to prevent this from happening. I hope you will be successful.**

**With appreciation for your actions on Colton's behalf,**

**Gustavo Serina**

**Vice President**

**Rainbow Honor Walk Board**





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Housing Rights Committee SF, 1663 Mission/13th Street, Suite 504, San Francisco CA 94103

January 17, 2017

Re: M. Colton Windsor, 737 Post Street, San Francisco, CA

Dear Committee Members,

I am writing you in support and on behalf of my friend and colleague, M. Colton Windsor, who will soon be homeless if the "Below Market Rent" program is discontinued from his residence at Tower 737 Apartments in San Francisco.

I've had the honor to have met Colton about a dozen years ago during his visit to San Francisco. Colton had joined my "Historical Castro Walking Tour", to learn more about our great city's LGBTQ history and civil rights movement. Feeling deeply touched as well as, connected to the Castro community, Colton made a brave decision to move to San Francisco.

Over the years, Colton has proved to be a pillar in regards to promoting human and civil rights in our country. His position for the last 10 years at the Human Rights Campaign in the Castro, has been exemplary. His joining our Rainbow Honor Walk Board, even more productive. Simply put it, Colton has become an extremely valuable member of our LGBTQ community, an outstanding San Francisco citizen and a beautiful soul that continues to serve the world.

Our city needs good people and advocates to continue the progress so many of us are dedicated to. Please help Colton keep his residency in San Francisco and help him remain here. It's our duty to help those who have given so much to us.

Sincerely,

Kathy Amendola  
Owner, Cruisin' the Castro Walking Tours  
Founding Board Member of the Rainbow Honor Walk

William Lipsky  
101 Edna Street  
San Francisco, CA 94112

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January 15, 2016

Dear friends:

Colton Windsor is a true San Franciscan. His friendliness, welcoming personality, concern for others and his willingness to help them embody the spirit of the City. Through his work at the Human Rights Campaign, he has become our ambassador to visitors from every region of the country and every part of the world. Through his work on the Rainbow Honor Walk, he has contributed to the heritage of the City, leaving a permanent legacy for generations to come. Now, after helping so many here for so long, he may be forced out our community because his rent will triple in a single year.

We cannot continue to lose residents like Colton and remain the City we love. We still need people like Colton who are willing to contribute to the progress of San Francisco in both big and small ways, people whose contributions are intrinsically and integrally woven into the fabric of the place and people that make up the community all of us love. Colton is one of those people. We need to keep him here. I hope you will do everything possible to enable him to stay.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

William Lipsky, PhD  
Member, Board of Directors, Rainbow Honor Walk  
Docent, GLBT History Museum  
Author, *San Francisco's Marina District* (2004); *Gay and Lesbian San Francisco* (2006)

**Peter Goss**  
**81 Uranus Terrace, San Francisco, CA 94114**  
**Cell: 415-505-4677 E-Mail: petergoss@zephyrsf.com**

January 17, 2017

Housing Rights Committee  
San Francisco, CA

Dear Committee Members:

As things stand now, an exemplary fellow citizen of San Francisco, M. Colton Windsor, will lose his home in the city that he loves on March 1, 2017, when the rent for his currently affordable home will increase by \$724.00.

Were this to happen, Colton would be forced to relocate far outside the city (at best) and would have to give up his job at the Human Rights Campaign Action Center on Castro Street.

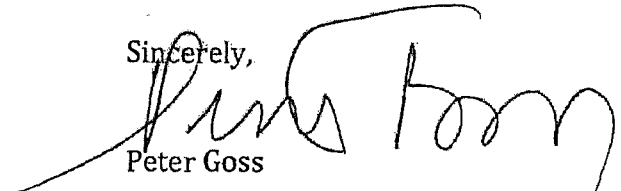
Were this to happen, as a person living with HIV, Colton would need to sever ties with doctors and all aspects of his medical care in San Francisco.

The loss of one's home and the city that one loves is a devastating thing, but when one adds to that a job that one feels passionately about, doctors and health care practitioners, friends and one's entire support network, I can only imagine what a dramatic negative impact this would have on Colton's health and well being. How could it not?

As terrible as all of that might be, there would be an even greater loss to our community and city. Colton's extraordinary work at the Human Rights Campaign, together with his outstanding service as a fellow board member of the Rainbow Honor Walk are both powerful examples of the character and commitment that our city so desperately needs to retain.

My understanding is that you and your fellow Committee Members have the power to help Colton and his many worthy neighbors stay in their affordable homes by taking appropriate action. I urge you to take that action in whichever form provides the strongest possible remedy and to do so without delay.

Sincerely,

  
Peter Goss

**Andrina O.**

Hi. My name is Andrina and I have been a resident at 737 Post for 4.5 years now. I was born and raised here in San Francisco. I went to elementary school in the Outer Sunset and I went to high school right next to Stonestown and SF State. My family has been here for as long as I know. After serving the US Army, my grandparents returned to the Chinatown and North Beach area. My mother worked at the SF school district for 40 years. My father was city champion in track and field at Galileo High School. My family and I love this city- it is my home.

I remember when there was a freeway right in front of the Ferry Building. I remember the '89 earthquake. I remember when South Beach and the ATT Park area when it was filled with dilapidated, empty warehouses. The city has changed so much and for the better in my short lifetime. However, there are some downsides to this rapid economic prosperity- the most notable issue is affordability. San Francisco is a world class city known for its food, diversity, culture and innovation. Yet the city is also infamous for its housing crisis. You know when it is really bad when you see newspapers from other countries like the BBC and Economist make fun of how ridiculous rent is here. My rent increases by almost \$500 next month and 9 months later in December this year, it will increase by another \$500. So basically, a \$1000 increase this year alone.

I am not a techie. I don't make six-figures. I am just a regular middle-income, white collar worker. I work at UCSF as a finance analyst and I have been at UCSF for over 7 years now. During my free time, I volunteer at Habitat for Humanity. I have been building houses for the less fortunate for 10 years now. I find it sadly ironic that now I am slowly getting pushed out of my own home.

I understand you have to make your investors happy and that you like money. From my understanding, the city has made several offers to Sequoia. The first one they totally rejected and the second one Sequoia just ghosted. What I don't understand is what was so inherently wrong with the city's offer that Sequoia would rather get rid of 40 tenants? I always paid rent on time if not early. I never had any noise complaint against me. I keep my apt clean and tidy. I would like to think I am good tenant. So do what you want to do to the units that are already empty. But please let people like me who love living in this beautiful city and in the Tower 737 community to stay in our BMR units.

**Catherine C.**

I moved into Tower 737 as a graduate student, literally signed the lease 1/10 and started school 1/12 in 2009. The BMR program helped me have a stable living environment while writing my doctoral dissertation over the next 5 years. It was tough going during that time period but I made it. Once I graduated, I still was not able to find a very high paying job. Once I did find a job, my company reorganized and my department was laid off. I only recently found work but it is \$10 less an hour than what I was making. To add insult to injury, I now have to pay my school loans. Although there are some strides in lowering repayment options it still is a % of your income and does not care if you are living in an area where rents are higher than the national average. Furthermore, the repayment options do not apply to private loans. The city had made great strides in increasing minimum wage and having programs in place to get people either education or work but I fall out of the category that these programs were set up to help. Moving to another state is not an option since the work I do is only located here in the Bay Area. If I move to the East Bay let's say, I would not be saving much money and I would now have commute and car costs which I do not have. Furthermore, I have two cats, they gray main coin sisters. Trying to find a place or a roommate situation that would let me have the cats is also difficult to find. They have lived with me all of there lives and giving them a way is not an option since they are my babies. I am hopeful that I can stay where I am at with my cats and continue to make a meaningful contribution to my community.

## **Dante Popalisky**

I am a high school math teacher currently at George Washington High School out in the Richmond District. Prior to that I worked for 2 years at Burton High School in the Portola District by the Cow Palace, and before that I was a Special Education class aid at Thurgood Marshall High School in the Bayview district before earning my full teaching credential. I also coach the varsity soccer team at Washington, and coached at Burton when I worked there. Altogether I have served the youth and by definition the broader community of San Francisco (in a hard to staff subject, in hard to staff schools) for more than 6 years.

While I love my work and am passionate about it, it pays significantly less than the average salary of many San Franciscans who work in the tech field or other parts of the private sector. Thus, the BMR program that allows me to rent my apartment at a rate I can afford is what allows me to continue my service to the youth of San Francisco even as the market rate of apartments has skyrocketed since I first moved here in January of 2010.

Even before this rent hike, I have considered moving out of the city, as many school districts outside of San Francisco pay much better than SFUSD. However, teaching in San Francisco offers the opportunity to serve a uniquely diverse population of students, as well as work in the community of which I am a part as a San Francisco resident. However, now that I am losing the affordable housing which I relied on, I will likely be forced to move out of the city, leaving me with a difficult decision as to whether to seek employment in a new district, or try to commute into the city, which will limit my ability to do things like coach soccer, which has allowed me to forge an even stronger connection to the community of which I serve as a teacher.

However, if the termination of the BMR program could be prevented, and I could stay in my current apartment, that would allow me to continue to serve the youth of San Francisco as I have been, and forge even deeper connections with the local community as time goes on.

### *Letters of Support for Dante from George Washington High School*

I am one of Dante Popalisky's fellow teachers at Washington High School. He has been a tremendous addition to our teaching staff this year. He brings a lot of energy and enthusiasm to a school that desperately needs it. Dante is a people person, and he is able to connect with his students and bring out the best in them. He has been the consummate team player, working with his fellow teachers to create lesson plans after school and during his free time. In addition, he is our school's soccer coach, and is both knowledgeable and well-liked.

If he is unable to live in San Francisco anymore due to housing costs, it would be a major loss for the students of Washington High School. Our school needs young, talented, passionate teachers like Dante in order to thrive. Thanks for reading.

Sincerely,  
David Cary

I am writing this note on behalf of Dante Popalasky. I am a math teacher at George Washington High School in San Francisco. I have been teaching at Washington High for over 40 years and I am delighted to have Dante teaching math in the classroom right next door to me. Dante is an excellent math teacher and a wonderful addition to our math department. He is also our Boy's Varsity Soccer coach this year and his team is so happy to have him as their new coach this year. We are very lucky to have Dante teaching at George Washington High School. He is a man of many talents who knows how to work collaboratively with both students and staff.

I bring all this up in the light of the possible 150% rent increase being discussed for the apartments in Dante's building. As a relatively new teacher in San Francisco Dante could no longer afford to live in San Francisco if his rent increased by 150%. Consequently he would have to move out of San Francisco and he would not longer be able to work in San Francisco. Most affordable housing for teachers is not within reasonable commuting distance from San Francisco.

I ask that this 150% increase in rent for the units in Dante's building will not happen and that the rent remain at an affordable price for teachers. It is hard to keep good teachers in San Francisco and we at Washington High definitely want to keep Dante at our school. Please consider letting the current rent prices remain the same.

Thank you so much for your consideration. An affordable rent price will allow good teachers to remain in San Francisco. The students attending San Francisco public schools need good quality teachers

Sincerely,  
Gael A. Beresford  
Math Teacher  
George Washington High School

I work with Dante Popalasky at George Washington High School. He has been an integral part of our teaching community and it would be unfortunate for our school and district if his rent is raised beyond a sustainable level. It is wide spread knowledge that teachers are having an increasingly difficult time finding affordable housing in the city. Please ask

the property management firm to reconsider a rent increase because they will contribute to the housing crisis.

Thank you,  
Stanley Voong  
Math Teacher  
George Washington High School

I'm writing in support of my colleague Dante Popalisky. My name is Tracy Thompson, and I am the chair of the mathematics department at George Washington High School in San Francisco.

Dante is a teacher in my department, and it concerns me greatly that we may have to lose him if he is forced out of his apartment due to an exorbitant rent increase. It was my understanding that BMR housing was created with people like Dante in mind, so I'm puzzled why this huge increase is even allowable.

San Francisco is hemorrhaging teachers and other citizens who give back so much to the community and don't expect huge salaries. It is so frustrating to have excellent teachers and coaches like Dante who devote themselves to our community, only to have them be forced to leave the profession or the city due to the high cost of housing.

I implore you to do all that you can to stop this 150% rent increase, which will act like a de facto eviction for many.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,  
Tracy Thompson  
George Washington High School  
600 32nd Avenue  
San Francisco, CA 94121

I am writing to you regarding how Dante has impacted our community at Washington High School in San Francisco. He has distinguished himself by influencing students not only academically in class but also on the field in soccer because of the integrity with which he carries himself. The soccer team he coaches has become the most unified I have seen in about 15 years. He carries himself in a way that the young men understand and accept their roles. In doing so, Dante has been able to influence the Latino sector of Washington High in an inspiring way that is an example to the faculty. The possibility of losing Dante would undermine the excellent example he sets for the students and teachers. In my 25 years of teaching, I can honestly say there are



few individuals that have the ability to impact the students as he does. I truly hope Dante does not have to leave his present housing due to an increase in rent. He has become a vital member of the Washington community that would be extremely missed if he had to, as a consequence, leave.

Sincerely,  
Ed Marquez  
Math Department  
Washington High School  
[marqueze@sfusd.edu](mailto:marqueze@sfusd.edu)  
415-750-8400 Ext. 215

I am writing on behalf of Dante Popalisky. Dante happens to be my son's soccer coach at Washington High School. For our family, it would be extremely disappointing to hear that Dante was pushed out of our school district due to a housing issue, one that can be avoided. Our teachers and our coaches give so much, above and beyond, and deserve far more than the pay they receive. Please do not push him out. We need more guys like Dante investing into our children.

Our family has lived in SF for 16 years. We have three children in the public school system. We have seen teachers come and go due to this issue. It is time we stop and look at the children of SF and hold on to folks like Dante and allow them to stay here at a rate they can afford.

Thank you for your time!

Sincerely,  
Ken and Kellie McCord  
415 341 5613

I am writing this on behalf of Dante Popalisky. I am a fellow teacher at George Washington High School, and I wanted to express the value that Dante adds to our math department and school.

Currently, San Francisco Unified School District has many teachers who are being priced out of the city. This means that the students in our community are losing a lot of quality teachers to rising housing prices. We do not want Dante to be one of those teachers who is forced to leave our school because he cannot afford the drastic rent increase at his apartment.

Christine Sierra  
George Washington High School

I'm writing this letter on behalf of Mr Popalisky.

He is facing a substantial increase in his rent.

Dante is a valued teacher here at Washington High School. He is a talented math teacher and a dedicated soccer coach. He cares for the education and well being of all his students.

Public school teachers do not have competitive salaries, any increase in rent will impact his standard of living.

If he has to move away to a more affordable place outside of San Francisco, he will not be able to provide the same level of commitment and service he now provides to the students here in Washington.

Please help keep his rent and place here in this city. Your decision can and will help not just Dante but also all the students he teaches and coaches here at Wash.

Thank You  
Ryan Wong

### **JT Locke & Amanda Vandermeer**

My name is JT Locke. My wife and I moved to San Francisco into tower 737 four years ago. We moved here from Portland Oregon for work. We were hired to teach at a non profit music school which has been in the community for 45 years, Blue Bear School of Music. We work with a lot of kid, teen-age and adult students.

We head a program called All star band which gives teenagers of all backgrounds, ethnicities and cultures their chance to perform, write and play music. Losing our housing we will no longer be able to afford to live here or to teach at the very school and classes in which we hired to move to San Francisco in the first place. If we have to leave we will be impacting a lot of lives of young adults as well as our own.

### **Shamilla Bayat**

I just would like to share with you why I am moving out of SF: the only reason that I have to leave SF is unfortunately because of our housing problem and my income! I have all my friends here and now going to a city I do not know anyone, have to start everything from the beginning. It is so sad, but I just had no other choice and can not live in here anymore! it looks to me that SF wants to have just well-paid people like IT technicians. But not everyone can get paid like Google people! With my salary, I am absolutely not able to pay more rent, even before raising the rent I paid 50% of my income and last year I needed a medical treatment, I got a bill for almost \$2000 (after covering the insurance). I really did not know how to pay this bill and how to survive! I work hard and have to commute by BART every day. I leave home at 6:15 am and sometimes when I get home it is around 7 pm so I could not imagine having the 2. job, but to paying this rent and serving in SF it seems you need the 2. and 3. jobs!

So I know they are people they work hard and need to stay in BMR and hope for them everything is going well! Fair would be if they check the income of people and see who is really in need and who not!!



Dante Popalisky <popaliskyd@gmail.com>

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## FW: In support of Dante Popalisky

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brad@hrcsf.org <brad@hrcsf.org>  
To: Popaliskyd@gmail.com

Wed, Feb 1, 2017 at 6:02 PM

Hey Dante, awesome letters! So many.

There are three I didn't see before I had to leave the office and the printer. Are you able to print 5 copies of each? I'm forwarding them to you. Let me know. Thanks!

—Original Message—

From: "Decarli, Elizabeth" <decarlie@sfusd.edu>  
Sent: Wednesday, February 1, 2017 4:59pm  
To: brad@hrcsf.org  
Subject: In support of Dante Popalisky

I'm writing to express my support for Dante Popalisky in his fight to retain an affordable apartment in San Francisco. As a High School Math Content Specialist in San Francisco Unified School District (SFUSD), I have the opportunity to work with math teachers from all high schools. This year I have had the privilege to work with Dante and I have visited his classroom a number of times. He is an excellent math teacher who has strong math and pedagogical knowledge, good classroom management skills, and a great rapport with his students. In addition to being a full-time math teacher, he coaches the boys' soccer team at Washington High School. Dante is a big asset both to Washington High School and to the larger community of SFUSD math teachers.

Every year, many teachers leave SFUSD because they need to move to a cheaper city or to a district with higher pay. SFUSD schools struggle to find teachers who can afford to work and live in our city. Please help Dante stay in San Francisco. Let me know if there is any additional information I can provide that will help in this effort.

Sincerely,  
Elizabeth DeCarli

Elizabeth DeCarli  
High School Math Content Specialist  
SFUSD Curriculum and Instruction, STEM  
750 25th Ave., San Francisco, CA 94121  
415-379-7061 Ext. 1961  
<http://www.sfusdmath.org>



Dante Popalisky <popaliskyd@gmail.com>

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## Reference for Dante Popalisky

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**Leah Goldberg** <levinegoldberg.leah@gmail.com>

Wed, Feb 1, 2017 at 5:25 PM

To: brad@hrssf.org

Cc: Dante Popalisky <popaliskyd@gmail.com>

To Whom it May Concern:

I'm emailing in regards to my colleague, Dante Popalisky. I worked with Mr. Popalisky for two years as co-teachers at the same high school. I watched Mr. Popalisky work long hours (about 11/day) and tirelessly to help his students succeed, graduate, and be college eligible. As teachers, we work hard to be positive members of society. We fight for racial inequality. We arrive before work and leave long after the kids are let out. We work Sundays and evenings. We attend professional development to better our practice. We have multiple meetings per week after contractual hours. We attend sports games and parent nights.

Especially in the San Francisco public school system, a district that faces robust challenges, we don't work for the mediocre salary. We work for our students, community and city. We work for ourselves, too, because we feel that it is important work.

SFUSD is facing an unprecedented teacher shortage due to high housing costs. Students are having a revolving door of substitutes in one year teach them college preparatory subjects. There widespread media coverage on this issue. We CANNOT lose another valuable, passionate, young, energetic, hardworking math teacher because of unmanageable apartment costs.

Thank you,  
Leah Levine-Goldberg  
(SFUSD math teacher)

Dear Housing Rights Committee of San Francisco,

Colton Windsor and I were coworkers at Human Rights Campaign on Castro Street until such time as I sought other employment .

Human Rights Campaign has a profound impact on visitors from around the world. Many visitors come from countries where being gay is prohibited.

They see San Francisco as a haven where gay people can life freely and with deep pride. Human Rights Campaign and its mission give them hope.

Colton gives pours his entire heart and soul into the mission of educating people about the life of Harvey Milk, about how being gay has evolved through the years, and how we can continue this mission with the brightest smile you've ever seen.

People came in asking for Colton many times on his day off. They looked so disappointed when I said, "He's not working today."

I believe Colton represents everything that is right in the world, as he comes from love and imparts it to citizens from around the globe through his enormous heart.

Human Rights Campaign is the vehicle through which Colton is able to shine, thereby fulfilling his mission. He must live close enough to continue with his mission, or Human Rights Campaign will suffer a great loss.

Colton has endured many intense challenges in his life.

Please let us find a way to keep this gem of a human being at the core of educating people on how important it is to be proud to be gay, and to live as gay people with utmost dignity.

Are we not a flagship city for gay rights?

If so, do we not want the most sincere people disseminating information regarding how important gay rights are?

This is not just a store in San Francisco.  
HRC is an educational center, and people from all around the world look up to the organization.

It saddens me deeply that Colton's housing is in jeopardy.  
We all know that here in San Francisco, if you are evicted from your rental it is bad news, not to mention a severe hardship and possibly life-threatening.  
How can this be happening?  
It is utterly inhumane.  
This does not sound like the San Francisco I know and love.

I would like to encourage all of you to reach deep into your hearts to find a way to keep this amazing individual aligned with his true mission of educating thousands upon thousands of people about the life (and death) of Harvey Milk, the pioneer of gay rights in San Francisco whose life was cut way too short, and how important it is to unite and to stand up for our rights.

This man is an asset to the city and county of San Francisco, to Human Rights Campaign, and to gay people all around the globe. There is no one more vibrant, loving, articulate and devoted than Colton.

Please find a way to make this happen.

Sincerely,

David Smugar

**To All to Whom it May Concern:**

**The city has been in the forefront of assuring safe housing for low income people of all types. Now that some of these buildings are 'aging out' of the programs, I urge you to consider the impact that this has on the people who have settled into these apartments and made them home.**

**In particular, I would like to speak to Colton Windsor. I have known Colton for a number of years, both as a fellow merchant in the neighborhood and as a fellow volunteer. I have contributed to his efforts on behalf of the neighborhood. He is a thoughtful and caring citizen who has done so much for the community. He is the sort of person that I want in my community - he adds value beyond the proverbial dollar.**

**I understand that it is expensive to maintain property and that high market rents are attractive. Is there not a solution at hand? A negotiation with the city is on the table, as I understand it. Please consider the greater overall impact to our community.**

**Thank you for hearing my thoughts,**

**Beth Feingold**



Dear Housing Rights Committee,

I am Associate Producer of Bay Area Cabaret, 501 (c)(3) nonprofit performing arts organization based in San Francisco for the past thirteen years.

Colton Windsor has been one of our most valued and treasured volunteers for the past several years. With his generosity of spirit, he is always eager to contribute his time and positive energy to all of our programs, doing whatever is asked of him and assuring that our patrons are made to feel well-taken care of.

Knowing that Colton is also an integral part of the Human Rights Campaign, the Rainbow Honor Walk, and the Castro Ambassador Program, forcing Mr. Windsor to move from his home and out of San Francisco would have a devastating impact on multiple community based organizations.

San Francisco has a proud history of being a community based city, protecting and uplifting its citizens. I urge you to please honor that history, choose our citizens and those who truly contribute to the community over corporate greed, and please allow Mr. Windsor to stay in his home.

Thank you for your consideration,

Michael Williams

Associate Producer

Bay Area Cabaret

c: 415-425-0287

[www.bayareacabaret.org](http://www.bayareacabaret.org)

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**Dante Popalisky**

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IB 7 &lt;issambenarafa@gmail.com&gt;

Wed, Feb 1, 2017 at 9:50 PM

To: brad@hrssf.org

Cc: popaliskyd@sfusd.edu

Hi Brad, I am Issam Benarafa, captain of the George Washington Soccer Team and I'm emailing you on regard to our coach Dante Popalisky. Being his captain, I bond very closely with Coach Pap and we have grown a relationship more than just a team but as people as well. It is always an amazing energy to be around one of the best coaches, in my opinion who has coached me. Aside from helping me with my on the field issues, Coach Popalisky has helped me with other things that have impacted my life. He has taught me to stay calm, how I can help others, and how I can take a leading role in aspects of my life. Senior year has brought me away from my love for soccer, but having Dante as our coach has made me love it more. Being a first year teacher at our school, he has many responsibilities and the fact that he puts so much time and effort into training us on Saturdays, providing his classroom for study sessions, and even helping some students on the team with their math, is just absolutely amazing to me. He as also drastically affected the performance of our team, last year we were a team that barely won any games, who had much trouble competing with the teams around us. Even despite the fact that we lost some amazing players from last year's seniors, this year has brought a new performance to us. We have only lost one game in our season, and are working our way up to first, already being very high on the table. Dante's place in our community, team, and school means so much to everyone who is blessed to have him in our life. On behalf of myself, my co-captain, and all of the kids at our school who have him, we would really want him to stay at our school, and most importantly in the city. Popalisky is more than a coach to all of us, he's a figure that has influenced our lives and will influence the new people that he encounters in his life.

My name is Jaimie McVittie, I'm a resident of Tower 737 on Post street. I have been a student, a cook, a sous chef and a bartender in this city, and am happy to call it home. San Francisco is known to be a leader of food service and hospitality in North America. We have many internationally respected chefs, a drive for innovation, and a deep love for our local Northern California produce. This city is an amazing place for anyone in the food industry to grow and continue to learn, from executive chefs down to the freshest culinary school graduate.

My passion is hospitality and bringing people together through the international language of food. I moved to San Francisco three years ago to attend culinary school. I began my training at City College of San Francisco, and studied in their highly respected hospitality program. This program was intense, but the purpose was to prepare us for the reality of the hospitality industry today. The unfortunate reality of my industry is that the compensation for the work put in is extremely low. An average cook's wage is currently between \$13 and \$16 per hour. My current pay at Trou Normand, a fine dining restaurant in the Soma, is \$15 per hour. With a city that is so expensive, this can be difficult to live comfortably or save money. This means that many of my colleagues work multiple jobs, myself included. And because of the rising rent prices, my industry is currently dealing with a labour shortage. There are not enough skilled workers that can afford to live and work in the city, so they move to somewhere else.

This BMR program allows me to live in the city where I can work to achieve my dreams. With the removal of it, I will need to try and find time in my week for a third job, or will have to look at a more affordable city to live in.

Thank you for your time,

Jaimie McVittie

737 Post Street, Apartment 213

San Francisco, CA, 94109