

## Wong, Linda (BOS)

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**From:** John Avalos <johnavalos2020@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 2, 2020 12:58 PM  
**To:** Fewer, Sandra (BOS)  
**Cc:** Boilard, Chelsea (BOS); Lerma, Santiago (BOS); Ronen, Hillary; Walton, Shamann (BOS); tracy.brown@sfgov.org; Mandelman, Rafael (BOS); Yee, Norman (BOS); erika.maybaum@sfgov.org; Hsieh, Frances (BOS); Wong, Linda (BOS)  
**Subject:** Hearing on Current Year Rebalancing Plan: Stand w/D11 on Affordable Housing

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June 2, 2020

Dear Chair Fewer,

It's with some alarm that I write to you today requesting that the budget committee express strong opposition to the Mayor cutting over 200 units of District 11 affordable housing projects. I was served in your budget chair seat for two budget cycles during the Great Recession when the city was facing a \$500M budget deficit. I know how incredibly difficult it is to be Budget Chair, especially during this public health and economic crisis.

Like you, I started as an organizer with Coleman Advocates for Children and Youth, later to become a Member of the San Francisco Board of Supervisors.

At Coleman, I was the first to engage the D11 community around the City budget. Since 2000, I have been a part of a growing and vibrant constituency engaged in community development. Together, with Communities United for Health and Justice, we brought forth new leaders, activated parks and open space, created public art along Mission Street, expanded and opened senior centers, fostered many youth development programs, centered workforce development programs in D11 like Excelsior Works, won community gardens like Hummingbird Garden and Sisterhood Farms, and so much more. None of these types of projects existed in D11 20 years ago.

The D11 community development effort's greatest achievement is the two affordable housing sites (Balboa Park Station's Upper Yard and 4840 Mission Street) that are before the Budget and Appropriations Committee. The D11 community struggled for 20 years to get these projects in the MOH housing pipeline.

I know that you have the world on your shoulders and that you have nothing more than your bully pulpit to urge the Mayor to keep these two projects in the budget and not punt them to a source of funding that has not yet been secured. Fate, it seems, is not without a sense of irony.

Compounding the irony is what it took to get the seed money for these two housing projects. It took an 8-year inside-outside partnership between the D11 community and me, their district supervisor, to raise an organized constituency to fight for affordable housing in a district that City Hall mistakenly

thought solely consisted of single-family homes. Rather, we are made up of many tenancies of essential workers and families struggling to stay in San Francisco. We had to fight to convince our neighbors and City Hall that preserving D11 as a working and middle-class district was worth the investment so that we would not face the rapid gentrification that has overwhelmed many other parts of the city.

Throughout my tenure at the Board, I worked closely with the community to champion several initiatives to bring revenue and affordable housing dollars to the City; including the Real Estate Transfer Tax of 2010 on luxury property, the Gross Receipts Tax and the City's Housing Trust Fund, and the Affordable Housing Bond of 2015 that finally put D11 on the affordable housing map. Mayor Lee sought to cut the Housing Bond in half and to cut out our D11 projects, yet we rallied together during the 2015 budget process to win back our projects in D11 and even some in D9.

The week before I left office in 2017, the Mayor's Office of Housing and Community Development awarded seed money for D11's two affordable projects. Unfortunately, under the current D11 Supervisor, the constituency that had been built around these two projects no longer had an ally. The projects took an *inside only* track and stalled out, most likely due to political interference from the current D11 Supervisor, who along with his real estate and developer cronies, had their own designs for these projects and what they would mean for the public.

Chair Fewer, I personally know how hard it is to safeguard this funding but based on the years of work of the D11 community against the decades of indifference at City Hall I urge you to rally your colleagues on the committee to speak out vehemently against these cuts to D11 affordable housing. These cuts fly in the face of the Mayor's work on neighborhood preference and your work on racial equity. Please don't let the Mayor set D11's affordable housing projects back another few years.

San Francisco needs a just recovery. We must rebuild our City around essential workers with racial equity in mind. D11 is a crucial part of the city where our essential workers -- Black, Brown, and Asian -- the people most vulnerable to inequity and the current pandemic, must have a future. Today, these two D11 projects are ground zero for the soul of the city and A Just Recovery. We hope you can speak alongside the D11 community to advocate for these projects.

Thank you for your tremendous dedication to this City.

Yours in struggle,

John Avalos

**From:** [Board of Supervisors, \(BOS\)](#)  
**To:** [BOS-Supervisors](#)  
**Cc:** [Young, Victor \(BOS\)](#); [Calvillo, Angela \(BOS\)](#); [Laxamana, Junko \(BOS\)](#); [Mchugh, Eileen \(BOS\)](#); [Ng, Wilson \(BOS\)](#); [Somera, Alisa \(BOS\)](#)  
**Subject:** FW: [SFB ] File: 220535 (HSH COMMISSION CHARTER AMENDMENT), OPPOSE UNLESS AMENDED  
**Date:** Thursday, May 19, 2022 12:41:15 PM

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**From:** Laksh Bhasin <lakshbhasindeveloper@gmail.com>

**Sent:** Thursday, May 12, 2022 5:27 PM

**To:** Board of Supervisors, (BOS) <board.of.supervisors@sfgov.org>

**Cc:** Safai, Ahsha (BOS) <ahsha.safai@sfgov.org>; SafaiStaff (BOS) <safaistaff@sfgov.org>; Peskin, Aaron (BOS) <aaron.peskin@sfgov.org>; PeskinStaff (BOS) <peskinstaff@sfgov.org>; Chan, Connie (BOS) <connie.chan@sfgov.org>; ChanStaff (BOS) <chanstaff@sfgov.org>; Mandelman, Rafael (BOS) <rafael.mandelman@sfgov.org>; MandelmanStaff, [BOS] <mandelmanstaff@sfgov.org>; jodav1026@gmail.com; Waltonstaff (BOS) <waltonstaff@sfgov.org>; Walton, Shamann (BOS) <shamann.walton@sfgov.org>

**Subject:** Re: [SFB ] File: 220535 (HSH COMMISSION CHARTER AMENDMENT), OPPOSE UNLESS AMENDED

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

Dear Supervisors,

I agree with Jordan Davis's email. The proposed Charter Amendment does not need to reinforce the role of Mayoral oversight over HSH. I request you to please work directly with supportive housing tenants such as Jordan, and other members of the SF Homeless Tenants Union, on amendments.

Moreover, it is concerning that this legislation contemplates a role for members of merchant or business associations appointed by the Mayor:

Seat 4 shall be held by a person with a record of participation in a merchants' or small business association, or neighborhood association.

Business owners should not have a role on a Homelessness Oversight Commission. I am deeply familiar with how, historically, business owners have derailed public housing efforts to maintain the supremacy of the private real-estate market. I do not see why they deserve any special representation, especially given their lack of subject matter or lived experience, and especially when supportive housing tenants are not explicitly represented on this Commission.

Thank you for your consideration.

Best,

Laksh Bhasin

On Thu, May 12, 2022 at 3:40 PM Jordan Davis <[jodav1026@gmail.com](mailto:jodav1026@gmail.com)> wrote:

To the clerk, please add this to the legislative file concerning the proposed HSH commission

Dear Supervisors,

As a person who has experienced homelessness and the bad conditions and awful rules of supportive housing, I strenuously OPPOSE the HSH charter amendment proposed by Supervisor Safa'i unless it is amended to not be majority mayoral appointments.

I know that we are all upset about that Chronicle expose on supportive housing, many supportive housing tenants, including myself, worked with Joaquin Palomino and Trisha Thadani on this story and more is to come. However, Supervisor Safa'i's attempt to Leeroy Jenkins a charter amendment without consulting affected individuals and proper community stakeholders is offensive and disgusting.

It's safe to say that the buck stops with the mayor's office, and that Newsom, Lee, and Breed have guided homeless policy for the past 20 years, and are responsible for the conditions within. Yet, if a majority of appointees are from the mayor's office, it will not lead to real oversight and will become a paper tiger, and that hurts people like me the most. The Sheriff's Commission charter amendment by Supervisor Walton passed with 68% of the vote, and was a majority BoS appointment commission, why can't we have the same for a proposed HSH commission? Newsom, Lee, and now Breed have had their thumb on the scale for way too long, and the charter amendment, as written, will lead to more prolonged meetings, where similar to the wars over anti-displacement at the Planning Commission, the wars over tasers at police commission, and the Redistricting Task Force, no matter how many people oppose a policy, the mayoral appointees will not listen.

The majority of the homeless population lives in D5, D6, and D9, and a lot of the services and housing are placed there, and yet a supervisor who does not represent a lot of homelessness and supportive housing and is an ally of the same mayor(s) that have allowed this to spin out of control has decided to introduce this? I urge Supervisor Safa'i to immediately cede this legislation to either Supervisors Preston or Ronen, because he should not be playing in this sandbox. If Dean Preston introduced a charter amendment around some issue in D11, you would rightfully be offended.

I also urge that, failing the ceding of the charter amendment to another supervisor, that the legislation be amended to not have a majority mayor appointment scheme. YOU NEED TO LISTEN TO PEOPLE WHO HAVE EXPERIENCED HOMELESSNESS AND THE CONDITIONS IN SUPPORTIVE HOUSING, WE ARE OFFENDED AND RETRAUMATIZED THAT SOMEONE WHO WE DON'T HAVE A RELATIONSHIP WITH IS TRYING TO RAM THIS THROUGH WITHOUT CONSULTING US. WE DO NOT WANT THIS TO BE A PAPER TIGER COMMISSION WHERE NOTHING GETS DONE!!

With disappointment.

-Jordan Davis (she/her)

Founder, #30RightNow Coalition

Member, SF Homeless Tenants Union