

**From:** [Sarah Nelson](#)  
**To:** [MandelmanStaff, \[BOS\]](#); [Peskin, Aaron \(BOS\)](#); [ChanStaff](#)  
**Cc:** [Young, Victor \(BOS\)](#)  
**Subject:** Endorsement for SOTF  
**Date:** Monday, January 11, 2021 7:32:13 PM

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

Dear Supervisors Peskin, Mandelman, and Chan,

I am writing to support the appointment of Laurie Jones Neighbors to the Sunshine Ordinance Task Force.

In the 10 years that I have known Laurie she has proved to be an ethical and conscientious neighbor, as well as a compassionate teacher and guide to the complicated political universe of SF. I'm even more impressed by how diligent she is in doing the difficult and tedious work of dismantling systems of oppression and building good governance.

I teach middle school here in SFUSD and I care deeply about the city I live in. It's difficult to stay here. Our communities that have traditionally been underserved will continue to stay underserved without recruiting high quality public workers. Having Laurie Neighbors on the SOTF will benefit the city and its residents as we work together to build back a better city.

Sincerely,

Sarah Nelson

Sarah Nelson (she/her/hers)  
6-8 Science Teacher  
San Francisco Community Alternative School  
SFUSD  
Cell: [\(415\) 729-4698](tel:4157294698)

**From:** [Beinart, Amy \(BOS\)](#)  
**To:** [Young, Victor \(BOS\)](#)  
**Subject:** Fwd: Rules-- Item 2- appointment to SOTF, file 201342  
**Date:** Thursday, January 7, 2021 7:23:55 PM

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Amy Beinart| Legislative Aide/Chief of Staff  
Office of Supervisor Hillary Ronen  
| [amy.beinart@sfgov.org](mailto:amy.beinart@sfgov.org)  
<https://sfbos.org/supervisor-ronen-district-9>

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**From:** Bob Planthold <political\_bob@att.net>  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 7, 2021 7:05:20 PM  
**To:** Ronen, Hillary <hillary.ronen@sfgov.org>; Stefani, Catherine (BOS) <catherine.stefani@sfgov.org>; Mar, Gordon (BOS) <gordon.mar@sfgov.org>  
**Cc:** Monge, Paul (BOS) <paul.monge@sfgov.org>; Lerma, Santiago (BOS) <santiago.lerma@sfgov.org>; Li-D9, Jennifer (BOS) <jennifer.li-d9@sfgov.org>; Herzstein, Daniel (BOS) <daniel.herzstein@sfgov.org>; Bennett, Samuel (BOS) <samuel.bennett@sfgov.org>; Mullan, Andrew (BOS) <andrew.mullan@sfgov.org>; Falzon, Frankie (BOS) <frankie.falzon@sfgov.org>; Lovett, Li (BOS) <li.lovett@sfgov.org>; Quan, Daisy (BOS) <daisy.quan@sfgov.org>; Wright, Edward (BOS) <edward.w.wright@sfgov.org>; Wong, Alan (BOS) <alan.wong1@sfgov.org>; Beinart, Amy (BOS) <amy.beinart@sfgov.org>; Bob Planthold <political\_bob@att.net>  
**Subject:** Rules-- Item 2- appointment to SOTF, file 201342

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

I suggest it not be appropriate to RE-appoint Mr. Pilpel to a seat on the SOTF.

While he WAS a member long ago, there are others who bring  
a new diversity of experience & viewpoints.

As well, since his SOTF term expired long ago,  
he has re-applied--BUT been rejected.

I leave it up to you to consider this, and maybe research why.

But, there are other applicants who

bring worthwhile experience and fresh ideas who are worthy of consideration.

Bob Planthold



**From:** [Christine Petit](#)  
**To:** [Young, Victor \(BOS\)](#)  
**Cc:** [Laurie Jones Neighbors](#)  
**Subject:** Fwd: Support for Laurie Jones Neighbors" Appointment to Sunshine Ordinance Task Force  
**Date:** Sunday, January 10, 2021 2:52:07 PM

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Dear Victor,

Please include these comments as part of the official record for tomorrow's Rule's Committee meeting.

Thank you!  
Christine

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Dear Chair Ronen and Supervisors Mar and Stefani:

I am writing to support Laurie Jones Neighbors' appointment to the San Francisco Sunshine Ordinance Task Force.

I recently transitioned out of my role of Executive Director at Long Beach Forward—a community-based organization working to create a healthy Long Beach with low-income communities of color by building community knowledge, leadership, and power—after six and a half years. I first met Laurie in 2014 when she helped us adapt the successful Boards and Commissions Leadership Institute that she developed at Urban Habitat to the Long Beach context. Since then we've facilitated three Boards and Commissions Leadership Institute training cohorts in Long Beach and helped to seat and support dozens of commissioners—especially those from underrepresented groups—along the way. I have kept in touch with Laurie over the past six plus years because she is both an amazing resource on all things boards and commissions and someone who has become a friend.

From what Laurie has shared with me, she has been interested in serving on the task force for several years because of her commitment to government transparency and the power of people having access to the workings of their government. Laurie has a deep understanding of and dedication to democracy and equity and I know she would serve the San Francisco community well on the task force if given the opportunity.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,  
Christine E. Petit, Ph.D.  
Principal, CP Consulting

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Dr. Christine E. Petit - she/her(s) pronouns  
[drchristinepetit.com](http://drchristinepetit.com)

[www.linkedin.com/in/christineepetit](http://www.linkedin.com/in/christineepetit)

562-221-4537 | Long Beach, CA

**From:** [J Lee](#)  
**To:** [Peskin, Aaron \(BOS\)](#); [MandelmanStaff, J\(BOS\)](#); [ChanStaff](#); [Young, Victor \(BOS\)](#)  
**Subject:** Laurie Jones Neighbors Appointment to Sunshine Ordinance Task Force  
**Date:** Tuesday, January 12, 2021 11:56:34 AM

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

Dear Members of the Rules Committee,

I'm writing today in support of Laurie Jones Neighbors's appointment to the San Francisco Sunshine Ordinance Task Force.

I met Laurie over a decade ago, when she was designing and launching Urban Habitat's Boards and Commissions Leadership Institute. She convinced me to join BCLI's first cohort, to ensure that low-income and underserved communities' voices are represented in local boards and commissions, and she also shepherded me through the appointment process for San Francisco's Pedestrian Safety Task Force.

I've always been impressed by Laurie's commitment to ensuring everyone is included in the decision-making processes, good government for all, and her relationships with so many people in San Francisco and the state. Her enthusiasm for good governance and community representation is truly infectious, and I have no doubt that she would make an invaluable addition to the Sunshine Ordinance Task Force.

Best regards,

Jay Lee

District 6 Resident & Pro Bono Manager of the Justice & Diversity Center of the Bar Association of San Francisco

--

Jay Lee  
(415) 994-2789

**From:** [Jason Rowland](#)  
**To:** [Young, Victor \(BOS\)](#)  
**Cc:** [Ronen, Hillary](#); [Stefani, Catherine \(BOS\)](#); [Mar, Gordon \(BOS\)](#)  
**Subject:** [SOTF Application] Withdrawing application  
**Date:** Friday, January 8, 2021 8:59:33 AM

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

Good morning,

I apologize for any headaches this may cause, but I'd like to withdraw my application for seat 8 on the Sunshine Ordinance Task Force. I initially applied last summer in the wake of the George Floyd protests because I was searching for a way to create a positive impact in our city (specifically, to help build trust between communities that are wary of institutions like City Hall).

Truthfully, as a 22 year old with most of my advocacy work outside of SF, I initially wasn't even sure I'd meet the qualifications. However, I *was* sure that the SOTF would be an effective way to achieve this goal, which is why I ultimately decided to apply. However, after learning more about the other applicants and reading their strong qualifications and deep roots in the city, I've realized that I am likely not the strongest candidate for this position. In order to ensure the most qualified candidate is selected and seated, I've decided to withdraw my application ahead of Monday's meeting. Again, I apologize for any headaches this may cause — it was a tough call for me to make.

Still, I plan to get more involved in our community and am looking forward to re-applying in the future. In the meantime, thank you all so much for your consideration and have a great weekend.

Best,  
Jason Rowland

**From:** [Beinart, Amy \(BOS\)](#)  
**To:** [Young, Victor \(BOS\)](#)  
**Subject:** Fwd: Rules-- Item 2- appointment to SOTF, file 201342  
**Date:** Thursday, January 7, 2021 7:23:55 PM

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>>>>>>>>>>

Amy Beinart| Legislative Aide/Chief of Staff  
Office of Supervisor Hillary Ronen  
| [amy.beinart@sfgov.org](mailto:amy.beinart@sfgov.org)  
<https://sfbos.org/supervisor-ronen-district-9>

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**From:** Bob Planthold <political\_bob@att.net>  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 7, 2021 7:05:20 PM  
**To:** Ronen, Hillary <hillary.ronen@sfgov.org>; Stefani, Catherine (BOS) <catherine.stefani@sfgov.org>; Mar, Gordon (BOS) <gordon.mar@sfgov.org>  
**Cc:** Monge, Paul (BOS) <paul.monge@sfgov.org>; Lerma, Santiago (BOS) <santiago.lerma@sfgov.org>; Li-D9, Jennifer (BOS) <jennifer.li-d9@sfgov.org>; Herzstein, Daniel (BOS) <daniel.herzstein@sfgov.org>; Bennett, Samuel (BOS) <samuel.bennett@sfgov.org>; Mullan, Andrew (BOS) <andrew.mullan@sfgov.org>; Falzon, Frankie (BOS) <frankie.falzon@sfgov.org>; Lovett, Li (BOS) <li.lovett@sfgov.org>; Quan, Daisy (BOS) <daisy.quan@sfgov.org>; Wright, Edward (BOS) <edward.w.wright@sfgov.org>; Wong, Alan (BOS) <alan.wong1@sfgov.org>; Beinart, Amy (BOS) <amy.beinart@sfgov.org>; Bob Planthold <political\_bob@att.net>  
**Subject:** Rules-- Item 2- appointment to SOTF, file 201342

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a new diversity of experience & viewpoints.

As well, since his SOTF term expired long ago,  
he has re-applied--BUT been rejected.

I leave it up to you to consider this, and maybe research why.

But, there are other applicants who

bring worthwhile experience and fresh ideas who are worthy of consideration.

Bob Planthold





# Laurie Jones Neighbors

373 Hermann Street, San Francisco, CA 94117

email: laurie@citiesandpeople.com | web: citiesandpeople.com | phone: 415/200-6743

## EDUCATION

### **Certificate in Evaluation Practice, The Evaluators' Institute (in progress)**

Focus on qualitative and quantitative approaches for evaluation of complex social change, strategic planning, and organizational/program development.

### **Master of Arts in Sociology, 2008, University of California Irvine, Social Movements and Globalization**

Thesis on in-country equity indicators as predictors of environmental treaty ratification.

### **Master of Arts in English, 1991, Texas Tech University, Rhetoric and Composition**

Thesis on narrative correspondence and coherence in the construction of historical texts.

### **Bachelor of Arts, Texas Tech University, May 1987 Dual Major in History and English**

## EXPERTISE

**Knowledge:** Knowledgeable about equity issues and perspectives in public decision making, especially in terms of health equity, educational equity, and racial, economic, and environmental justice for the built environment.

**Network:** Relationships across sectors and issues, with ability to build strategic networks to support new projects, particularly within the racial, economic, educational, and environmental justice spheres.

**Research and Evaluation:** Trained social science researcher and data analyst with a knowledge of the constraints of prevailing research methods and approaches in advancing social justice outcomes. Background in technical, transactional, and academic writing.

**Collective Leadership and Political Strategy:** Proven ability to develop and support under-represented stakeholders in realizing political targets and achieving breakthrough innovations, including through the design, implementation, and evaluation of communities of practice.

**Program Modeling, Management, and Evaluation:** Experienced in developing, managing, assessing, and evaluating programs that systematically address social inequities, including nonprofit programs, cross-organizational communities of practice, and programs to support at-risk college students.

**Organizational Development and Management:** Experienced in managing nonprofit organizations, programs, people, and budgets, including fundraising. Experienced in college and university program administration.

**Teaching, Facilitation, and Presentation:** Master teacher, trainer, and presenter in both traditional academic and community educational settings. Recipient of multiple teaching awards.

## RECENT SERVICE

- Member, **Bay Area Justice Funders Network**, Oakland, CA: November 2019 to Present
- Member, **League of Women Voters of San Francisco**: October 2019 to Present
- Member, **Green Foothills Advisory Board**, Palo Alto, CA: September 2019 to Present
- Member, **TransForm Board of Directors**, Oakland, CA: October 2018 to December 2020

- Member, **Native Americans in Philanthropy**, Washington, DC: March 2018 to Present
- Member, **American Evaluation Association**, Washington DC: April 2017 to Present

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

### Managing Principal

**Cities & People Advisors** (Laurie Jones Neighbors Consulting), **San Francisco, CA: July 2012 to present**

As an independent consultant, work with nonprofit, educational, and governmental organizations and foundations to develop programs for technically and politically preparing low-income people to lead decision making in their schools, communities, regions, states, and nation. Highlights include:

- Developed a strategic program that builds the capacity of Los Angeles residents to serve on and influence **appointed city boards and commissions** and develops a community framework for stronger, active connections between community groups and appointed commissioners, allowing stakeholders to work more effectively together to achieve common progressive policy and social justice objectives. *Client: Liberty Hill Foundation.*
- Designed and led a three-part staff training on developing and supporting game-changing **communities of practice** for supporting local to national initiatives for breakthrough innovations in public projects for the built environment. *Client: PolicyLink*
- Designed and evaluated a year-long pilot for a student-centered, teacher-led, program-level **assessment of student learning** for a college program that supports students in addressing the opportunity gap. *Client: Metro Academies at San Francisco State University*
- Designed, implemented, and evaluated a two-year cross-organizational community of practice for staff members of three **college pathway organizations**, based on a three-month investigation process engaging members in shared program design. *Client: The James Irvine Foundation.*
- Provided technical and evaluative assistance for the development of a peer-to-peer capacity-building **virtual community of practice for health providers** across the country to increase their ability to better identify, plan, implement, and share high-impact prevention activities for reducing HIV infections, decreasing HIV-associated morbidity and mortality, and eliminating health disparities. *Client: Center for Learning and Innovation, Population Health Division, San Francisco Department of Public Health.*
- Provided technical assistance to four of **The California Endowment's** Building Healthy Communities sites (City Heights in San Diego, Central Santa Ana, Eastern Coachella Valley, and Long Beach) in order to ensure that local residents have **public planning decision-making power** through local board and commission influence and service. *Client: Liberty Hill Foundation.*

### Faculty, Health Education Department

**San Francisco State University: August 2014 to May 2017**

Developed and taught a lower-division course on the history of health and social movements in the 20th century United States and an upper-division course on the social inequities and public health.

**Senior Director of Strategic Initiatives (outgoing title)****Urban Habitat, Oakland, CA: July 2008 to July 2012**

- As part of a team of four senior managers and a President/CEO, contributed to decision making for all aspects of the organization's programmatic, personnel, and financial goals and strategies.
- Led the strategic planning process to develop a clear, collaborative, values-driven plan that supports the organization in leveraging its technical and political capacity across programs.
- Researched, developed, and piloted the Boards and Commissions Leadership Institute, implementing the pilot on time and under budget and placing 100% of the pilot cohort in priority boards and commissions seats in the region.
- Provided oversight and direction for Urban Habitat's Bay Area strategic programs and developing areas of expertise, with core responsibilities for continuing innovation in the Boards and Commissions Leadership Institute, Social Equity Caucus, and annual State of the Region conference.
- Designed and implemented curriculum, including in support of community engagement strategies, policy and decision-making processes, deliberation, and with technical content to support equitable decision making in public planning processes including transportation, land use, housing, jobs, and the environment.
- Developed and oversaw the Strategic Initiatives budget, and participated with the CEO in fundraising for that budget as well as for general operating support.
- Worked with the Richmond Equitable Development Initiative to determine plug-in points for community members in order to move equitable revisions to the city's General Plan update, including the Health Element.
- Represented Urban Habitat as a speaker and panelist at conferences and coalition events.
- Managed consultants and contractors and supervised staff.
- Shepherded the organization's adoption of educational technology to enhance training.

**Teaching Assistant****University of California Irvine: August 2006 to August 2008**

- Upon returning to college for a second graduate degree, developed and taught discussion sections and assisted professors of record in various courses in the Department of Sociology and in the School of Education.

**Faculty Consultant and Instructor****Teaching Effectiveness Program, University of Oregon: August 2002 to June 2006**

- Co-led a mandatory training for all faculty and staff of the College of Education to ensure accountability to student concerns about respect for a racially diverse student body.
- Designed and implemented cross-campus workshops on a variety of teaching, curriculum, educational technology, and administration issues.
- Served as the point-person for teaching-crisis support for all levels of instructors.

**Online Course Developer and Instructor**  
**Kaplan Colleges, Virtual: August 2001 to December 2002**

- Developed all assignments, activities, message board threading, and seminar directives for a composition course to be delivered online through synchronous and asynchronous methods.
- Taught various online classes through the English and Communication Department in the College of Arts and Sciences, including Intercultural Communication.

**Director of Learning**  
**Kinection, Inc., Santa Cruz, CA: August 2001 to July 2002**

- Managed all aspects of the firm's technology-enhanced projects, including a strategic mentoring process for the New Teachers Project, a suite of courses for the San Jose State University Extension program, and an online workforce learning community prototype for the United States Navy.
- Developed architecture and content development plans for two online statistics courses for the Naval Postgraduate School.
- Communicated, managed, and negotiated with a diverse array of stakeholders and contributors: subject-matter experts, graphic designers, copyeditors, instructional technicians, Web designers and programmers, and technical project managers.
- Oversaw budgets for all in-house projects and consistently completed projects under-budget and with high client satisfaction.

**Director (outgoing title)**  
**ProSeminar, California State University Monterey Bay: August 1995 to July 2001**

- Administered all aspects of a university-wide first-year academic program enrolling approximately 700 students per year in a mandatory course taught by faculty from across the disciplines, including overseeing budget, managing support staff, setting policies, and recruiting, hiring, training, and evaluating program faculty.
- Planned and delivered a teacher-training curriculum that addressed achieving outcomes, facilitating discussions, responding to student work, using portfolios, fostering climates of shared leadership and self-directed learning, and building learning communities.
- Coordinated, compiled, and distributed a program self-study, collecting and analyzing perspectives on program effectiveness from the campus community, comparing program issues to similar programs nationwide, and making recommendations to the administration and general campus community regarding structure, content, policies, and approaches.
- Designed and updated a progressive curriculum for diversity awareness and anti-oppression for use with a demographically diverse first-year student body.
- Worked with interdisciplinary faculty to build an innovative skills center (the Academic Skills Achievement Program) at a new university by setting policies, developing programs, and determining appropriate pedagogy that allowed for the support and respect of all students.

**PRESENTATION HIGHLIGHTS**

**Center on Policy Initiatives.** "Inside-Outside Strategy in Action and Networked Leadership." San Diego: May 19, 2018.

**Urban Habitat Annual Boards and Commissions Training Programs Summit.** "A Cross-Site Program Evaluation Tool." Oakland, July 27, 2017.

**Urban Habitat Annual Boards and Commissions Training Programs Summit.** "What Does Long-Term Program Sustainability Look Like?" Oakland, July 27, 2017.

**Center on Policy Initiatives.** "Inside-Outside Strategy in Action and Networked Leadership." San Diego: June 24 2017.

**New American Leaders Project.** "Proving Ground: Appointed Commission Service and Your Political Trajectory." National Webinar: November 6, 2014.

**New American Leaders Project National Alumni Convening.** "Getting Appointed to Boards and Commissions." Washington, DC: July 26, 2013.

**Long Beach Rising!** "Local Boards and Commissions Leadership for Movement Building." Long Beach, CA: June 5, 2013.

**Building Healthy Communities Santa Ana** (The California Endowment). "Civic Engagement Strategies for Building Healthy Communities." Santa Ana, CA: June 4, 2013.

**New American Leaders Project.** "Proving Ground: Appointed Commission Service and Your Political Trajectory." National Webinar: April 20, 2013.

**Building Healthy Communities Long Beach** (The California Endowment). "Resident-Led Change: Boards and Commissions Leadership Strategies for Building Healthy Communities." Long Beach, CA: April 2, 2013.

**California Convergence Steering Committee Meeting.** "New Approaches to Civic Leadership for Resident Capacity Building." Sacramento, CA: February 15, 2013.

**California Convergence Steering Committee Meeting.** "Move the Needle on CA Convergence Capacity Building Efforts." Baldwin Park, CA: October 4, 2012.

**2012 State of the Region** (Urban Habitat). "Reciprocal Accountability: Bringing the Outside Movement into Insider Advocacy." Oakland, CA: April 26, 2012.

**Equity Summit California.** "Leadership Development and Community Engagement." (Panelist) Sacramento, CA: April 10, 2012.

**PolicyLink Equity Summit.** "What It Takes: Preparing Equity Leaders." Detroit: MI: November 8, 2011.

**The State of Environmental Justice in America.** "Setting the Agenda, Creating Change." (Panelist) Detroit, MI: April 27, 2011.

**Funders' Network for Smart Growth and Livable Communities.** "Catalyzing New Community Leadership." (Panelist) Detroit, MI: March 22, 2011

**From:** [Beinart, Amy \(BOS\)](#)  
**To:** [Kai Forsley](#); [Ronen, Hillary](#); [Young, Victor \(BOS\)](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Regarding SF Sunshine Ordinance Task Force  
**Date:** Friday, January 8, 2021 10:08:31 AM

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Kai, thank you so much for reaching out.

Please feel free to forward your email also to the two other members of Rules Committee:

Supervisor Catherine Stefani – [Samuel.Bennett@sfgov.org](mailto:Samuel.Bennett@sfgov.org)

Supervisor Gordon Mar – [Li.Lovett@sfgov.org](mailto:Li.Lovett@sfgov.org)

Thanks much,  
~Amy

<<<<<<>>>>>>

Amy Beinart | Legislative Aide/Chief of Staff

Office of Supervisor Hillary Ronen

[amy.beinart@sfgov.org](mailto:amy.beinart@sfgov.org)

<https://sfbos.org/supervisor-ronen-district-9>

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**From:** Kai Forsley <[forsley@outlook.com](mailto:forsley@outlook.com)>  
**Sent:** Friday, January 8, 2021 9:57 AM  
**To:** Ronen, Hillary <[hillary.ronen@sfgov.org](mailto:hillary.ronen@sfgov.org)>; Beinart, Amy (BOS) <[amy.beinart@sfgov.org](mailto:amy.beinart@sfgov.org)>  
**Subject:** Regarding SF Sunshine Ordinance Task Force

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

Hello-

My name is Kai Forsley and I was instructed by Victor Young to introduce myself directly.  
(Amy, we have already spoken.)

I am applying to be a member of the Sunshine Ordinance Task Force. In relation to this particular task force, I have interest in overarching accountability measures in workplace settings as well as specific interest in open government. I have always been interested in the organization of information, which is why I pursued librarianship. It is important to all that government information is well organized, easily accessible (as needed), and presented for public benefit. Joining this Task Force will allow me to support San Francisco's goal of government accountability and access to public records, documents, meetings, etc.

My specific connection to SOTF is that a case I submitted/presented to the Sunshine Ordinance Task Force set a precedent directing that *Community Benefit Districts* (CBDs) be subject to the Sunshine Ordinance. I was a board member on a local CBD and I felt that some of the business being conducted should have been available for public review. I studied Chapter 67 thoroughly, submitted my information, and after several months, SOTF members at that time agreed with my suggestion. This positive experience with the task force definitely fueled my interest.

Lastly, I have attached my resume, as advised by the office of the Clerk of the Board.

Best,

Kai Forsley, MLIS



**From:** [Beinart, Amy \(BOS\)](#)  
**To:** [Matt Yankee](#); [Young, Victor \(BOS\)](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Sunshine Ordinance Task Force Appointment  
**Date:** Thursday, January 7, 2021 2:47:37 PM

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Thanks so much for writing, Matt. I'm adding Victor Young, who serves as Clerk to the Rules Committee, to add this to the public record.

Please feel free to forward your email to the two other members of Rules Committee:

Supervisor Catherine Stefani – [Samuel.Bennett@sfgov.org](mailto:Samuel.Bennett@sfgov.org)

Supervisor Gordon Mar – [Li.Lovett@sfgov.org](mailto:Li.Lovett@sfgov.org)

Thanks much,  
~Amy

<<<<<<>>>>>>

Amy Beinart | Legislative Aide/Chief of Staff

Office of Supervisor Hillary Ronen

[amy.beinart@sfgov.org](mailto:amy.beinart@sfgov.org)

<https://sfbos.org/supervisor-ronen-district-9>

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**From:** Matt Yankee <[yankeema@gmail.com](mailto:yankeema@gmail.com)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 7, 2021 2:20 PM  
**To:** Beinart, Amy (BOS) <[amy.beinart@sfgov.org](mailto:amy.beinart@sfgov.org)>  
**Subject:** Fwd: Sunshine Ordinance Task Force Appointment

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

Hello Amy,

I sent the e-mail below to Supervisor Ronen, and I wanted to be sure you received a copy of it as well.

Thanks!

Matt Yankee

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

From: **Matt Yankee** <[yankeema@gmail.com](mailto:yankeema@gmail.com)>  
Date: Thu, Jan 7, 2021 at 2:12 PM  
Subject: Sunshine Ordinance Task Force Appointment  
To: <[Hillary.Ronen@sfgov.org](mailto:Hillary.Ronen@sfgov.org)>

Dear Supervisor Ronen,

In anticipation of the upcoming Rules Committee hearing for appointments to the Sunshine Ordinance Task Force (SOTF), I would like to take a brief moment to personally introduce myself to you. My name is Matt Yankee, and I live in the Sunset/Parkside District of San Francisco. I have been serving on the SOTF since November 2018 and have devoted over fifteen years to careers in public service, specifically in positions involving a high degree of public contact, public records, and government accessibility. I would be thrilled to continue my service on the SOTF and respectfully ask for your support in my reappointment.

I am currently the Chief of the Alameda County Clerk-Recorder's Office, where I have been employed since moving to San Francisco in 2011. Prior to moving to San Francisco, I served as the Director of Elections for Washtenaw County – Michigan's sixth largest county, and home to the City of Ann Arbor and the University of Michigan. During my tenure in these positions, I have been a passionate advocate for open government and have consistently sought ways to improve services. I strongly believe in the concept that government works for the people, and to that end, it should be as transparent as possible. Furthermore, I have been on the front lines of ensuring continued access to thousands of essential public records during the current pandemic.

I am particularly proud of the work I have accomplished on the Sunshine Ordinance Task Force since my initial appointment. As Chair of its Information Technology Committee, I led several important hearings regarding the disclosure of metadata associated with electronic records. I have also served on the Complaint Committee, the Rules Committee, and the Education, Outreach & Training Committee. More recently, I was honored to be unanimously elected as Vice-Chair of the SOTF. I also am keenly aware of the importance of quorum at SOTF meetings – and I can gladly report that I have attended every regularly scheduled meeting of the full SOTF throughout my tenure.

I would be happy to further discuss my background and qualifications with you or your staff, and to answer any questions that you may have. Please feel free to let me know if you would like to arrange some time for a short discussion. Otherwise, I look forward to attending the hearing on Monday and speaking to you then.

Sincerely,

Matt Yankee  
2615 30th Ave.  
San Francisco, CA 94116  
[yankeema@gmail.com](mailto:yankeema@gmail.com)  
Cell: (440) 623-4612  
Work: (510) 272-6798

**From:** [Beinart, Amy \(BOS\)](#)  
**To:** [Joanna Kabat](#); [Young, Victor \(BOS\)](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Sunshine Ordinance Task Force--recommendation for Laurie Jones Neighbors  
**Date:** Friday, January 8, 2021 9:07:24 AM

---

Thanks so much for writing, Joanna. I'm adding Victor Young, who serves as Clerk to the Rules Committee, to add this to the public record.

Please feel free to forward your email to the two other members of Rules Committee:

Supervisor Catherine Stefani – [Samuel.Bennett@sfgov.org](mailto:Samuel.Bennett@sfgov.org)

Supervisor Gordon Mar – [Li.Lovett@sfgov.org](mailto:Li.Lovett@sfgov.org)

Thanks much,  
~Amy

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[amy.beinart@sfgov.org](mailto:amy.beinart@sfgov.org)

<https://sfbos.org/supervisor-ronen-district-9>

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**From:** Joanna Kabat <JKabat@libertyhill.org>  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 7, 2021 11:28 PM  
**To:** Beinart, Amy (BOS) <amy.beinart@sfgov.org>  
**Subject:** Sunshine Ordinance Task Force--recommendation for Laurie Jones Neighbors

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

Dear Ms. Beinart,

I am writing on behalf of staff leadership at the Liberty Hill Foundation to support the appointment of Laurie Jones Neighbors to San Francisco's Sunshine Ordinance Task Force. It is our firm belief that Laurie would be a deeply qualified member of the task force, with profound commitment to transparent governance and community access to government systems.

We have had the benefit and pleasure of working with Laurie for more than six years in her capacity as a consultant to Liberty Hill. Laurie has worked with us to guide the work of our Commissions Training Program, as she has done with other organizations, building a network of organizations throughout the state that collectively have trained hundreds of community members on equitable decision-making, with many of these people going on to serve on boards, commissions, task forces, and neighborhoods councils. This is, of course, built on her expertise working with Urban Habitat to

create their Boards and Commissions Leadership Institute. Urban Habitat and Laurie's work is considered by many, including by Liberty Hill, to be the gold standard for building community access to, and relationships with, local governments.

Laurie's passion and excitement about the Brown Act and parliamentary procedure are matched by her knowledge and curiosity, and of course for her love of her community in San Francisco. She has professional and personal experiences that give her deep insights into how government can and should work to transform communities and individual lives through transparent and equitable decision-making. Her commitment to her community and all communities where she works is reflected in her dedication to building trusting relationships with those around her. With community equity as her north star I have great trust in her ability to be a capable and valuable member of the Task Force, in service of San Francisco.

Thank you for your consideration,

Joanna Kabat, Director, Grant Making and Capacity Building  
Jenny Punsalan Delwood, Executive Vice President

**Joanna Kabat**

Pronouns: she/her/hers

Director, Grant Making & Capacity Building | [Liberty Hill Foundation](#)

[Website](#) | [YouTube](#) | [Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#) | [Instagram](#)

**From:** [Beinart, Amy \(BOS\)](#)  
**To:** [Sarah Nelson](#); [Young, Victor \(BOS\)](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Support letter for L. J Neighbors to SOTF  
**Date:** Friday, January 8, 2021 9:18:17 AM

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Thanks so much for writing, Sarah. I'm adding Victor Young, who serves as Clerk to the Rules Committee, to add this to the public record.

Please feel free to forward your email to the two other members of Rules Committee:

Supervisor Catherine Stefani – [Samuel.Bennett@sfgov.org](mailto:Samuel.Bennett@sfgov.org)

Supervisor Gordon Mar – [Li.Lovett@sfgov.org](mailto:Li.Lovett@sfgov.org)

Thanks much,  
~Amy

<<<<<>>>>>

Amy Beinart | Legislative Aide/Chief of Staff

Office of Supervisor Hillary Ronen

[amy.beinart@sfgov.org](mailto:amy.beinart@sfgov.org)

<https://sfbos.org/supervisor-ronen-district-9>

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**From:** Sarah Nelson <sarahcnelson@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 7, 2021 9:22 PM  
**To:** Beinart, Amy (BOS) <amy.beinart@sfgov.org>  
**Subject:** Support letter for L. J Neighbors to SOTF

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

Dear Supervisors Ronen, Mar, and Stefani,

I am writing to support the appointment of Laurie Jones Neighbors to the Sunshine Ordinance Task Force.

In the 10 years that I have known Laurie she has proved to be an ethical and conscientious neighbor, as well as a compassionate teacher and guide to the complicated political universe of SF. I'm even more impressed by how diligent she is in doing the difficult and tedious work of dismantling systems of oppression and building good governance.

I teach middle school here in SFUSD and I care deeply about the city I live in. It's difficult to stay here. Our communities that have traditionally been underserved will continue to stay underserved without recruiting high quality public workers. Having Laurie Neighbors on the SOTF will benefit the

city and its residents as we work together to build back a better city.

Sincerely,

Sarah Nelson

Sarah Nelson (she/her/hers)

6-8 Science Teacher

San Francisco Community Alternative School

SFUSD

Cell: [\(415\) 729-4698](tel:4157294698)

**From:** [Richard Knee](#)  
**To:** [Ronen, Hillary](#); [Stefani, Catherine \(BOS\)](#); [Mar, Gordon \(BOS\)](#)  
**Cc:** [Young, Victor \(BOS\)](#); [jaya.padmanabhan@gmail.com](mailto:jaya.padmanabhan@gmail.com); [Peskin, Aaron \(BOS\)](#); [Hepner, Lee \(BOS\)](#); [Wolfe Bruce](#); [Chris Hyland](#)  
**Subject:** Sunshine Ordinance Task Force appointments  
**Date:** Friday, January 8, 2021 12:33:20 AM  
**Importance:** High

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

Board of Supervisors Rules Committee  
Honorable Hillary Ronen, Chair  
Honorable Catherine Stefani  
Honorable Gordon Mar

Re: Candidacies of Jaya Padmanabhan, Chris Hyland and Bruce Wolfe for Sunshine Ordinance Task Force seats: Strongly support

During a lengthy interview with the Freedom of Information Committee of the Society of Professional Journalists' Northern California Chapter ("SPJ NorCal"), of which I am a member, Jaya Padmanabhan impressed me as someone knowledgeable on sunshine law, passionate about government transparency, and of pleasant demeanor and temperament well suited for dealing with the tension that at times surfaces during Task Force proceedings. Moreover, filling the seat for which she is nominated is extremely important, given the Task Force's depleted membership.

Also, Supervisor Aaron Peskin and his legislative aide Lee Hepner deserve thanks for leading the way in enabling SPJ NorCal to succeed New America Media as nominator for the seat for which Ms. Padmanabhan is applying.

In addition, I am pleased to endorse Chris Hyland and Bruce Wolfe for re-appointment to the Task Force. Their tenures on the Task Force overlapped mine, and they have served in excellent fashion.

Sincerely,  
Richard Knee  
Former Sunshine Ordinance Task Force member and chair

Cc: Victor Young, Clerk of the Rules Committee; Jaya Padmanabhan; Chris Hyland; Bruce Wolfe; Supervisor Aaron Peskin; Lee Hepner  
Bcc: Other interested persons



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## **Patrick Monette-Shaw**

975 Sutter Street, Apt. 6  
San Francisco, CA 94109  
Phone: (415) 292-6969 • e-mail: [pmonette-shaw@earthlink.net](mailto:pmonette-shaw@earthlink.net)

January 7, 2021

Rules Committee

San Francisco Board of Supervisors

The Honorable Hillary Ronen, Supervisor, San Francisco Board of Supervisors, Chair, Rules Committee  
The Honorable Catherine Stefani, Supervisor, San Francisco Board of Supervisors, Member, Rules Committee  
The Honorable Gordon Mar, Supervisor, San Francisco Board of Supervisors, Member, Rules Committee  
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place  
San Francisco, CA 94102

Re: **Agenda Item #2: Opposition to Re-Appointment of David Pilpel to Sunshine Ordinance Task Force (SOTF)**

Dear Chair Ronen and Rules Committee Members,

I am submitting testimony opposing any re-appointment of David Pilpel to the SOTF.

Attached, please find:

- A. Testimony I submitted to the Rules Committee opposing Mr. Pilpel's application for appointment to SOTF on April 27, 2016 when then-Supervisor Katy Tang was Chairperson of the Rules Committee, and
- B. Testimony submitted to the Rules Committee by labor leader Claire Zvanski on April 26, 2016 opposing Mr. Pilpel's application for appointment to SOTF in 2016; Ms. Zvanski's letter is a public record in the background files of the Rules Committee and her testimony was more than likely posted on-line in the public correspondence file for the Rules Committee's hearing on Pilpel's application in 2016.

Both my testimony in April 2016 and Ms. Zvanski's testimony in April 2016 are part and parcel of the historical record on why Mr. Pilpel should never be re-appointed to SOTF — not now, and not ever.

In summary, the reasons the current Rules Committee should not even recommend to the full Board of Supervisor Pilpel for appointment to SOTF include:

- 1. Although the Rules Committee in 2016 forwarded a recommendation to the full Board of Supervisors to potentially consider Pilpel for re-appointment to the SOTF, the full Board had the wisdom not to do so, and Mr. Pilpel was **not** re-appointed to SOTF when his term expired in 2016.
- 2. Pilpel's prior disruptive behavior as a member of two policy bodies — the SFMTA's *Citizens Advisory Council* (CAC) and the PUC's CAC — prevented his being re-appointed to either policy body. Mr. Pilpel's application dated January 6, 2021 cited his service on those two policy bodies in the "Civic Activities" section of his application, but he failed to note to this Rules Committee that he was **not** re-appointed to either policy body.

I learned the weekend of April 24, 2016 by reliable report that former Supervisor Katy Tang — the then-chairperson of the Rules Committee — was responsible for, or instrumental in, blocking David Pilpel's re-appointment to both the SFMTA Citizen's Advisory Council (CAC) and to the SF PUC's Citizen's Advisory Committee (CAC) due to many complaints from both CAC members and SFMTA staff.

- 3. Public testimony submitted in April 2016 (see attached) documented Pilpel's previous history of rifling through the desks of SFMTA employees at MUNI's headquarters after hours. He did so not as a once or twice occurrence, but as a regular practice. By report, he continued to snoop around City offices for a number of years.
- 4. Pilpel has refused to recuse himself from hearing SOTF complaints after the complainants noted his conflict of interest, or perceived conflicts of interest.



January 7, 2021

**Agenda Item #2: Opposition to Re-Appointment of David Pilpel to Sunshine Ordinance Task Force**

Page 2

5. Pilpel's attendance record at 15 SOTF meetings held between October 2013 and August 2014 when he was appointed on the SOTF was pathetic; he missed four — 26.7% — of those 15 meetings.
6. Pilpel was observed engaging in *ex parte* communications with City department employees named as respondents in Sunshine complaints filed with SOTF, jeopardizing the outcome of proceedings for the complainants.
7. Two complaints were filed with the Ethics Commission for violations of the Statements of Incompatible Activities applicable to Board of Supervisors and SOTF members.
8. Pilpel withheld and misrepresented key information regarding due process issues from the Rules Committee in 2014 when the 2014 Rules Committee was considering re-appointing him to SOTF in 2014.
9. By report, Pilpel also exhibited on-going disruptive behavior when he served on the Redistricting Task Force, but of course, he also didn't mention that in his January 6, 2021 application for re-appointment to the SOTF.
10. On April 6, 2016, an hour-and-a-half into a Sunshine Task Force meeting, Pilpel suddenly requested being recused from hearing a complaint filed by Ray Hartz, Jr. involving the Ethics Commission. The MP3 audio of that meeting shows that then-Task Force Member Mark Rumold — a lawyer who held a Task Force seat reserved for nominations from the Society of Professional Journalists — noted that the Task Force may potentially want to eventually discuss whether Pilpel had abused his duties as a member of the Task Force often.

The now current Rules Committee must not make the same mistake of forwarding Pilpel's name to the full Board of Supervisors for consideration of re-appointment to the SOTF.

This time, on January 11, 2011 the Rules Committee should forward an explicit recommendation to the full Board of Supervisors clearly rejecting appointing Mr. Pilpel and specifically declining to submit his name for any further consideration by the full Board of Supervisors.

As I noted in April 2016, leopards rarely change their spots and tigers rarely change their stripes. Both animals rarely change their behavior. So, too, with David Pilpel.

It's time to stop considering him for appointment to any Board or Commission in City government, since he's far too disruptive to transparency and accountability.

Respectfully submitted,

**Patrick Monette-Shaw**

*Columnist/Reporter*

*Westside Observer* Newspaper

## **Patrick Monette-Shaw**

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975 Sutter Street, Apt. 6  
San Francisco, CA 94109  
Phone: (415) 292-6969 • e-mail: [pmonette-shaw@earthlink.net](mailto:pmonette-shaw@earthlink.net)

April 27, 2016

### **Rules Committee**

#### **San Francisco Board of Supervisors**

The Honorable Katy Tang, Supervisor, San Francisco Board of Supervisors, Chair, Rules Committee

The Honorable Eric Mar, Supervisor, San Francisco Board of Supervisors, Member, Rules Committee

The Honorable Malia Cohen, Supervisor, San Francisco Board of Supervisors, Member, Rules Committee

1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place

San Francisco, CA 94102

Re: **Opposition to Re-Appointment of David Pilpel to Sunshine Ordinance Task Force**

Dear Rules Committee Members,

Please do not approve recommending applicant David Pilpel to another term on the SOTF for the following reasons.

#### **Prior Disruptive Behavior Prevented His Re-Appointment to Two CAC's**

Mr. Pilpel's behavior as a member of other policy bodies has been totally disruptive.

Despite Pilpel's claim on his application that he has served on the SFMTA CAC, SFPUUC CAC, and on the Redistricting Task Force, he was not re-appointed to the MTA CAC in 2009 or earlier, reportedly due to his disruptive behavior and badgering of MTA CAC members and MTA staff. Similarly, within approximately the past year Pilpel was not re-appointed to the PUC CAC for the largely the same reason, as Supervisor Tang must be aware. And by report, Pilpel was extremely disruptive when he served on the Redistricting Task Force.

#### **Poor Attendance Record**

Between October 2, 2013 and August 24, 2014, the SOTF held 15 meetings. Pilpel was absent four times — 26.7% — of those 14 meetings.

#### **Refusal to Recuse Himself vs. Recusal From Hearing Complaints**

- On May 5, 2015, a Sunshine complaint filed by Brian Browne against the SF PUC was calendared for a hearing before the Sunshine Task Force. Browne — aware that Pilpel was then serving on the PUC's CAC — requested that Pilpel recuse himself from hearing Browne's complaint due to a potential conflict of interest. Pilpel refused, and announced that although he was a member of the PUC's CAC, he should NOT have to recuse himself. Browne's complaint was continued to a future meeting of the Task Force.
- On April 6, 2016, an hour-and-a-half into the Sunshine Task Force's meeting, Pilpel suddenly requested being recused from hearing a complaint filed by Ray Hartz, Jr. involving the Ethics Commission. Pilpel admitted he had attended the Ethics Commission's January 25 meeting and had testified several times that the Commission was making a mistake because he felt an item on the Ethics Commission's agenda "was not framed properly for public discussion." Pilpel felt the Ethics Commission was not conducting themselves appropriately. Subsequently Hartz filed a Sunshine complaint concerning the Ethics Commission's January 25 meeting.

Pilpel claimed he had been speaking as a "private citizen" but it was obvious he was providing advice to the Ethics Commission in his role as a member of the Sunshine Task Force.

Hartz's complaint that was supposed to be heard on April 6 involved the new Executive Director of Ethics, LeeAnn Pelham. The draft minutes of the Task Force's April 6 minutes only reported that Pilpel wanted to avoid the appearance of bias.

Pilpel requested to be recused from hearing the matter. The MP3 audio file of the April 6 Task Force meeting shows that Pilpel stated during the meeting that “my view is that I have either bias, or the appearance thereof” [for having spoken during the Ethics Commission’s meeting on January 25]. But there should have been no need for him to recuse himself if he had, in fact, been speaking as a private citizen. And there should have been no question about whether Pilpel was engaging in “bias” if he had been speaking as a member of the public.

The MP3 audio also shows that Task Force Member Mark Rumold — a lawyer who holds a Task Force seat reserved for nominations from the Society of Professional Journalists — noted that potentially the Task Force may want to eventually discuss whether Pilpel has abused his duties as a member of the Task Force often, and that, if so, the Task Force we could take some action later.

There doesn’t seem to be much rhyme or reason as to when Pilpel decides whether or not to request being recused from hearing items on the agenda.

### **Ex Parte Communications**

On May 5, 2015 following the hearing on Brian Browne’s Sunshine complainant, Pilpel raced up to the SFPUC representative who had attended the hearing and who was enroute to the elevator, and began speaking with the PUC rep. Browne reportedly said “Mr. Pilpel, I hope you are not talking to her about my case.” It’s one of many examples — not an isolated occurrence — of Pilpel having sidebar — *ex parte* — conversations with respondents regarding Sunshine complaints prior to hearing the merits of a complainant’s formal complaint.

### **Undermining Sunshine Complainants**

Also in 2015, Pilpel submitted a letter to the Ethics Commission prior to an Ethics Commission hearing involving a Sunshine complaint Paula Datesch had filed against the Art Commission that the Task Force had referred to the Ethics for enforcement. Pilpel intentionally interfered with the Ethics Commission’s deliberations by offering his so-called “personal opinion” on a matter that the Task Force had already ruled on and had concluded. Pilpel has no compulsion about trying to overturn Sunshine Task Force decisions that he doesn’t agree with, and is brazen enough to show up at Ethics hearings to intentionally undercut official Orders of Determination the Task Force had issued.

It is thought Pilpel has interfered with other concluded Orders of Determination issued by the Task Force after-the-fact, and this is not an isolated incident.

### **Two Ethics Complaints Involving Violations of the Statement of Incompatible Activities Applicable to the Board of Supervisors and SOTF Members**

In 2014 I filed two Ethics complaints against Mr. Pilpel alleging that he had violated the SIA applicable to SOTF members. In the first Ethics complaint, I noted Pilpel had identified himself during public comment at a meeting of the Ethics Commission as “David Pilpel, Member of SOTF,” rather than as a member of the public, as if he were authorized to speak on behalf of the full Task Force.

After I filed my complaints, Pilpel became somewhat more careful to claim he addresses policy bodies as a member of the public, although he has been reported by other observers as having continued to identify himself as a member of SOTF when addressing other policy bodies.

Mr. Pilpel had **not** sought an Advance Written Determination that testifying to the Ethics Commission about a Sunshine Complaint adjudicated and finalized by the full Task Force is **not** incompatible with his official duties.

In my second Ethics complaint, the underlying issue was not whether Mr. Pilpel is permitted to speak before other policy bodies on issues **outside** the scope of his duties as a member of the Sunshine Task Force (for example speaking during a meeting of a Commission considering a land use matter that might affect Mr. Pilpel’s neighborhood). Instead, the underlying issue was whether Pilpel is permitted to speak to another policy body on issues that are **inside** the scope of his duties as a Sunshine Task Force member (i.e., speaking about a matter inside the scope of his duties, **after** the full Task Force had concluded the matter and referred it to the Ethics Commission for enforcement).

April 27, 2016

**Opposition to Re-Appointment of David Pilpel to Sunshine Ordinance Task Force**

Page 3

When Mr. Pilpel voluntarily became a member of the Task Force, he was automatically bound under the governing SIA to restrict his testimony on matters falling *inside* the scope of his duties before other bodies. As a member of the Task Force, he has a duty to support and abide by decisions reached by a majority of Task Force members.

Pilpel's *ex parte* communications with other Policy Bodies and his testimony during other Policy Body meetings are a ruse when he claims to be speaking as a private citizen. His claims are a sham, when not a pretense or pretext, since it is clear he is trying to provide testimony in his role as a member of the Task Force, not so much as a member of the public.

His ruse needs to stop, and the Rules Committee can do so by refusing to advance him for consideration for re-appointment to the Task Force. Please refuse to support him application; it's long overdue that you dump him off of SOTF.

**Pilpel Withheld Key Information from Rules Committee in May 2014**

To the extent that Pilpel sought to sway the Rules Committee into re-appointing him to the Sunshine Task Force on May 15, 2014 by blabbing his wild assertion that members of the SOTF didn't understand where "due process attaches," he may have gamed re-appointment to the Task Force by withholding informing Supervisors Yee and Tang on May 15 that just 17 days earlier when Pilpel had raised the "due process" issue during the Sunshine complaint hearing involving Phil Ginsburg before the Ethics Commission, Deputy City Attorney Josh White who advises the Ethics Commission, had to interject and inform Ethics Commissioners that "due process" didn't apply.

It is completely egregious that Pilpel — who must have fully understood DCA White's clear City Attorney advice — withheld DCA White's advice from Tang and Yee in 2014, and repeated the "due process" misinformation that White had shot down, during his testimony seeking re-appointment to the Task Force. Indeed, it could be argued that by ignoring DCA White's "City Attorney opinion," and repeating due process misinformation, Pilpel had failed Katy Tang's "litmus test" of undying fealty to City Attorney "advice" as a condition of appointment to the Task Force.

**Conclusion**

The Rules Committee should not make the same mistake twice by referring Mr. Pilpel for re-appointment to the Task Force again, after he duped you in May 2014.

After all, leopards rarely change their spots, and tigers rarely change their stripes. Both animals rarely change their behavior. So, too, with David Pilpel. It's time to get rid of him as being too disruptive.

Respectfully submitted,

**Patrick Monette-Shaw**

*Columnist/Reporter*

*Westside Observer Newspaper*

Below is the testimony Claire Zvanski submitted on April 26, 2016 opposing the appointment of David Pilpel to the Sunshine Ordinance Task Force. Zvanski's letter is a public record that was posted on-line to the Rules Committee in April 2016.

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**Evans, Derek**

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**From:** Tang, Katy (BOS)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 26, 2016 11:46 AM  
**To:** Evans, Derek  
**Subject:** FW: Rules Committee appointment consideration

**For the clerk's records**

**From:** claire zvanski [mailto:czvanski@hotmail.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 26, 2016 3:51 AM  
**To:** Mar, Eric (BOS) <eric.mar@sfgov.org>; Cohen, Malia (BOS) <malia.cohen@sfgov.org>; Tang, Katy (BOS) <katy.tang@sfgov.org>  
**Subject:** Rules Committee appointment consideration

Dear Supervisors:

It is my understanding that the Rules Committee will be considering appointments to the Sunshine Task Force this Thursday, April 28. It is also my understanding that David Pilpel has submitted his application for reappointment to that task force.

I have known David for more than 25 years. He was a teenager when I used to have to physically extract him from offices at MUNI headquarters (on Presidio at Geary in those days). He was regularly rifling through desks of managers and other employees and also going through our file cabinets for "information" on various projects and issues. He would often come in after hours when those managers would have gone home for the day. This was not a once or twice occurrence. It was a regular practice for a very long time. He was reported, but he continued to do this as long as the doors of the building were not locked. Later, security measures were taken and he could not easily access our building after hours. So, he would come in and "visit" with various managers at the end of the day but not leave the building at closing.

Mr. Pilpel has continued to probe/snoop into City business and City offices over the years. As a retired City employee with nearly 40 years of service behind me, I found and continue to find Mr. Pilpel's methods despicable and his motives questionable. While I support transparency and the public's right to know, I also understand the need for files and work products to remain protected. There is a time and place for everything.

All this is to say that I don't believe Mr. Pilpel is appropriate for reappointment to the Sunshine Task Force. Colleagues of mine have told me of his ongoing unorthodox methods in seeking information and also his harassment of both City employees and elected/appointed individuals. These are unprofessional methods and behaviors that should not be rewarded by appointment to an official City body, especially the Sunshine Task Force.

Please reject the reappointment of David Pilpel to the Sunshine Task Force.

Thank you very much for your consideration of this request.

Claire Zvanski

(37.5 years retired career public service with CCSF; 26 years on HSS board)

**From:**  
**To:** [Young, Victor \(BOS\)](#)  
**Cc:** [Ronen, Hillary](#); [Stefani, Catherine \(BOS\)](#); [Mar, Gordon \(BOS\)](#)  
**Subject:** [SOTF Application] Withdrawing application  
**Date:** Friday, January 8, 2021 8:59:33 AM

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

Good morning,

I apologize for any headaches this may cause, but I'd like to withdraw my application for seat 8 on the Sunshine Ordinance Task Force. I initially applied last summer in the wake of the George Floyd protests because I was searching for a way to create a positive impact in our city (specifically, to help build trust between communities that are wary of institutions like City Hall).

Truthfully, as a 22 year old with most of my advocacy work outside of SF, I initially wasn't even sure I'd meet the qualifications. However, I *was* sure that the SOTF would be an effective way to achieve this goal, which is why I ultimately decided to apply. However, after learning more about the other applicants and reading their strong qualifications and deep roots in the city, I've realized that I am likely not the strongest candidate for this position. In order to ensure the most qualified candidate is selected and seated, I've decided to withdraw my application ahead of Monday's meeting. Again, I apologize for any headaches this may cause — it was a tough call for me to make.

Still, I plan to get more involved in our community and am looking forward to re-applying in the future. In the meantime, thank you all so much for your consideration and have a great weekend.

Best,  
Jason Rowland

**From:** [Beinart, Amy \(BOS\)](#)  
**To:** [Young, Victor \(BOS\)](#)  
**Subject:** Fwd: Rules-- Item 2- appointment to SOTF, file 201342  
**Date:** Thursday, January 7, 2021 7:23:55 PM

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>>>>>>>>>>

Amy Beinart| Legislative Aide/Chief of Staff  
Office of Supervisor Hillary Ronen  
| [amy.beinart@sfgov.org](mailto:amy.beinart@sfgov.org)  
<https://sfbos.org/supervisor-ronen-district-9>

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**From:** Bob Planthold <political\_bob@att.net>  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 7, 2021 7:05:20 PM  
**To:** Ronen, Hillary <hillary.ronen@sfgov.org>; Stefani, Catherine (BOS) <catherine.stefani@sfgov.org>; Mar, Gordon (BOS) <gordon.mar@sfgov.org>  
**Cc:** Monge, Paul (BOS) <paul.monge@sfgov.org>; Lerma, Santiago (BOS) <santiago.lerma@sfgov.org>; Li-D9, Jennifer (BOS) <jennifer.li-d9@sfgov.org>; Herzstein, Daniel (BOS) <daniel.herzstein@sfgov.org>; Bennett, Samuel (BOS) <samuel.bennett@sfgov.org>; Mullan, Andrew (BOS) <andrew.mullan@sfgov.org>; Falzon, Frankie (BOS) <frankie.falzon@sfgov.org>; Lovett, Li (BOS) <li.lovett@sfgov.org>; Quan, Daisy (BOS) <daisy.quan@sfgov.org>; Wright, Edward (BOS) <edward.w.wright@sfgov.org>; Wong, Alan (BOS) <alan.wong1@sfgov.org>; Beinart, Amy (BOS) <amy.beinart@sfgov.org>; Bob Planthold <political\_bob@att.net>  
**Subject:** Rules-- Item 2- appointment to SOTF, file 201342

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

I suggest it not be appropriate to RE-appoint Mr. Pilpel to a seat on the SOTF.

While he WAS a member long ago, there are others who bring  
a new diversity of experience & viewpoints.

As well, since his SOTF term expired long ago,  
he has re-applied--BUT been rejected.

I leave it up to you to consider this, and maybe research why.

But, there are other applicants who

bring worthwhile experience and fresh ideas who are worthy of consideration.

Bob Planthold

# Laurie Jones Neighbors

## EDUCATION

### **Certificate in Evaluation Practice, The Evaluators' Institute (in progress)**

Focus on qualitative and quantitative approaches for evaluation of complex social change, strategic planning, and organizational/program development.

### **Master of Arts in Sociology, 2008, University of California Irvine, Social Movements and Globalization**

Thesis on in-country equity indicators as predictors of environmental treaty ratification.

### **Master of Arts in English, 1991, Texas Tech University, Rhetoric and Composition**

Thesis on narrative correspondence and coherence in the construction of historical texts.

### **Bachelor of Arts, Texas Tech University, May 1987 Dual Major in History and English**

## EXPERTISE

**Knowledge:** Knowledgeable about equity issues and perspectives in public decision making, especially in terms of health equity, educational equity, and racial, economic, and environmental justice for the built environment.

**Network:** Relationships across sectors and issues, with ability to build strategic networks to support new projects, particularly within the racial, economic, educational, and environmental justice spheres.

**Research and Evaluation:** Trained social science researcher and data analyst with a knowledge of the constraints of prevailing research methods and approaches in advancing social justice outcomes. Background in technical, transactional, and academic writing.

**Collective Leadership and Political Strategy:** Proven ability to develop and support under-represented stakeholders in realizing political targets and achieving breakthrough innovations, including through the design, implementation, and evaluation of communities of practice.

**Program Modeling, Management, and Evaluation:** Experienced in developing, managing, assessing, and evaluating programs that systematically address social inequities, including nonprofit programs, cross-organizational communities of practice, and programs to support at-risk college students.

**Organizational Development and Management:** Experienced in managing nonprofit organizations, programs, people, and budgets, including fundraising. Experienced in college and university program administration.

**Teaching, Facilitation, and Presentation:** Master teacher, trainer, and presenter in both traditional academic and community educational settings. Recipient of multiple teaching awards.

## RECENT SERVICE

- Member, **Bay Area Justice Funders Network**, Oakland, CA: November 2019 to Present
- Member, **League of Women Voters of San Francisco**: October 2019 to Present
- Member, **Green Foothills Advisory Board**, Palo Alto, CA: September 2019 to Present
- Member, **TransForm Board of Directors**, Oakland, CA: October 2018 to December 2020



- Member, **Native Americans in Philanthropy**, Washington, DC: March 2018 to Present
- Member, **American Evaluation Association**, Washington DC: April 2017 to Present

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

### Managing Principal

**Cities & People Advisors** (Laurie Jones Neighbors Consulting), **San Francisco, CA: July 2012 to present**

As an independent consultant, work with nonprofit, educational, and governmental organizations and foundations to develop programs for technically and politically preparing low-income people to lead decision making in their schools, communities, regions, states, and nation. Highlights include:

- Developed a strategic program that builds the capacity of Los Angeles residents to serve on and influence **appointed city boards and commissions** and develops a community framework for stronger, active connections between community groups and appointed commissioners, allowing stakeholders to work more effectively together to achieve common progressive policy and social justice objectives. *Client: Liberty Hill Foundation.*
- Designed and led a three-part staff training on developing and supporting game-changing **communities of practice** for supporting local to national initiatives for breakthrough innovations in public projects for the built environment. *Client: PolicyLink*
- Designed and evaluated a year-long pilot for a student-centered, teacher-led, program-level **assessment of student learning** for a college program that supports students in addressing the opportunity gap. *Client: Metro Academies at San Francisco State University*
- Designed, implemented, and evaluated a two-year cross-organizational community of practice for staff members of three **college pathway organizations**, based on a three-month investigation process engaging members in shared program design. *Client: The James Irvine Foundation.*
- Provided technical and evaluative assistance for the development of a peer-to-peer capacity-building **virtual community of practice for health providers** across the country to increase their ability to better identify, plan, implement, and share high-impact prevention activities for reducing HIV infections, decreasing HIV-associated morbidity and mortality, and eliminating health disparities. *Client: Center for Learning and Innovation, Population Health Division, San Francisco Department of Public Health.*
- Provided technical assistance to four of **The California Endowment's** Building Healthy Communities sites (City Heights in San Diego, Central Santa Ana, Eastern Coachella Valley, and Long Beach) in order to ensure that local residents have **public planning decision-making power** through local board and commission influence and service. *Client: Liberty Hill Foundation.*

### Faculty, Health Education Department

**San Francisco State University: August 2014 to May 2017**

Developed and taught a lower-division course on the history of health and social movements in the 20th century United States and an upper-division course on the social inequities and public health.

**Senior Director of Strategic Initiatives (outgoing title)**

**Urban Habitat, Oakland, CA: July 2008 to July 2012**

- As part of a team of four senior managers and a President/CEO, contributed to decision making for all aspects of the organization's programmatic, personnel, and financial goals and strategies.
- Led the strategic planning process to develop a clear, collaborative, values-driven plan that supports the organization in leveraging its technical and political capacity across programs.
- Researched, developed, and piloted the Boards and Commissions Leadership Institute, implementing the pilot on time and under budget and placing 100% of the pilot cohort in priority boards and commissions seats in the region.
- Provided oversight and direction for Urban Habitat's Bay Area strategic programs and developing areas of expertise, with core responsibilities for continuing innovation in the Boards and Commissions Leadership Institute, Social Equity Caucus, and annual State of the Region conference.
- Designed and implemented curriculum, including in support of community engagement strategies, policy and decision-making processes, deliberation, and with technical content to support equitable decision making in public planning processes including transportation, land use, housing, jobs, and the environment.
- Developed and oversaw the Strategic Initiatives budget, and participated with the CEO in fundraising for that budget as well as for general operating support.
- Worked with the Richmond Equitable Development Initiative to determine plug-in points for community members in order to move equitable revisions to the city's General Plan update, including the Health Element.
- Represented Urban Habitat as a speaker and panelist at conferences and coalition events.
- Managed consultants and contractors and supervised staff.
- Shepherded the organization's adoption of educational technology to enhance training.

**Teaching Assistant**

**University of California Irvine: August 2006 to August 2008**

- Upon returning to college for a second graduate degree, developed and taught discussion sections and assisted professors of record in various courses in the Department of Sociology and in the School of Education.

**Faculty Consultant and Instructor**

**Teaching Effectiveness Program, University of Oregon: August 2002 to June 2006**

- Co-led a mandatory training for all faculty and staff of the College of Education to ensure accountability to student concerns about respect for a racially diverse student body.
- Designed and implemented cross-campus workshops on a variety of teaching, curriculum, educational technology, and administration issues.
- Served as the point-person for teaching-crisis support for all levels of instructors.

**Online Course Developer and Instructor**  
**Kaplan Colleges, Virtual: August 2001 to December 2002**

- Developed all assignments, activities, message board threading, and seminar directives for a composition course to be delivered online through synchronous and asynchronous methods.
- Taught various online classes through the English and Communication Department in the College of Arts and Sciences, including Intercultural Communication.

**Director of Learning**  
**Kinection, Inc., Santa Cruz, CA: August 2001 to July 2002**

- Managed all aspects of the firm's technology-enhanced projects, including a strategic mentoring process for the New Teachers Project, a suite of courses for the San Jose State University Extension program, and an online workforce learning community prototype for the United States Navy.
- Developed architecture and content development plans for two online statistics courses for the Naval Postgraduate School.
- Communicated, managed, and negotiated with a diverse array of stakeholders and contributors: subject-matter experts, graphic designers, copyeditors, instructional technicians, Web designers and programmers, and technical project managers.
- Oversaw budgets for all in-house projects and consistently completed projects under-budget and with high client satisfaction.

**Director (outgoing title)**  
**ProSeminar, California State University Monterey Bay: August 1995 to July 2001**

- Administered all aspects of a university-wide first-year academic program enrolling approximately 700 students per year in a mandatory course taught by faculty from across the disciplines, including overseeing budget, managing support staff, setting policies, and recruiting, hiring, training, and evaluating program faculty.
- Planned and delivered a teacher-training curriculum that addressed achieving outcomes, facilitating discussions, responding to student work, using portfolios, fostering climates of shared leadership and self-directed learning, and building learning communities.
- Coordinated, compiled, and distributed a program self-study, collecting and analyzing perspectives on program effectiveness from the campus community, comparing program issues to similar programs nationwide, and making recommendations to the administration and general campus community regarding structure, content, policies, and approaches.
- Designed and updated a progressive curriculum for diversity awareness and anti-oppression for use with a demographically diverse first-year student body.
- Worked with interdisciplinary faculty to build an innovative skills center (the Academic Skills Achievement Program) at a new university by setting policies, developing programs, and determining appropriate pedagogy that allowed for the support and respect of all students.

**PRESENTATION HIGHLIGHTS**

**Center on Policy Initiatives.** "Inside-Outside Strategy in Action and Networked Leadership." San Diego: May 19, 2018.

**Urban Habitat Annual Boards and Commissions Training Programs Summit.** "A Cross-Site Program Evaluation Tool." Oakland, July 27, 2017.

**Urban Habitat Annual Boards and Commissions Training Programs Summit.** "What Does Long-Term Program Sustainability Look Like?" Oakland, July 27, 2017.

**Center on Policy Initiatives.** "Inside-Outside Strategy in Action and Networked Leadership." San Diego: June 24 2017.

**New American Leaders Project.** "Proving Ground: Appointed Commission Service and Your Political Trajectory." National Webinar: November 6, 2014.

**New American Leaders Project National Alumni Convening.** "Getting Appointed to Boards and Commissions." Washington, DC: July 26, 2013.

**Long Beach Rising!** "Local Boards and Commissions Leadership for Movement Building." Long Beach, CA: June 5, 2013.

**Building Healthy Communities Santa Ana** (The California Endowment). "Civic Engagement Strategies for Building Healthy Communities." Santa Ana, CA: June 4, 2013.

**New American Leaders Project.** "Proving Ground: Appointed Commission Service and Your Political Trajectory." National Webinar: April 20, 2013.

**Building Healthy Communities Long Beach** (The California Endowment). "Resident-Led Change: Boards and Commissions Leadership Strategies for Building Healthy Communities." Long Beach, CA: April 2, 2013.

**California Convergence Steering Committee Meeting.** "New Approaches to Civic Leadership for Resident Capacity Building." Sacramento, CA: February 15, 2013.

**California Convergence Steering Committee Meeting.** "Move the Needle on CA Convergence Capacity Building Efforts." Baldwin Park, CA: October 4, 2012.

**2012 State of the Region** (Urban Habitat). "Reciprocal Accountability: Bringing the Outside Movement into Insider Advocacy." Oakland, CA: April 26, 2012.

**Equity Summit California.** "Leadership Development and Community Engagement." (Panelist) Sacramento, CA: April 10, 2012.

**PolicyLink Equity Summit.** "What It Takes: Preparing Equity Leaders." Detroit: MI: November 8, 2011.

**The State of Environmental Justice in America.** "Setting the Agenda, Creating Change." (Panelist) Detroit, MI: April 27, 2011.

**Funders' Network for Smart Growth and Livable Communities.** "Catalyzing New Community Leadership." (Panelist) Detroit, MI: March 22, 2011

**From:** [Beinart, Amy \(BOS\)](#)  
**To:** [Kai Forsley](#); [Ronen, Hillary](#); [Young, Victor \(BOS\)](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Regarding SF Sunshine Ordinance Task Force  
**Date:** Friday, January 8, 2021 10:08:31 AM

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Kai, thank you so much for reaching out.

Please feel free to forward your email also to the two other members of Rules Committee:

Supervisor Catherine Stefani – [Samuel.Bennett@sfgov.org](mailto:Samuel.Bennett@sfgov.org)

Supervisor Gordon Mar – [Li.Lovett@sfgov.org](mailto:Li.Lovett@sfgov.org)

Thanks much,  
~Amy

<<<<<<>>>>>>

Amy Beinart | Legislative Aide/Chief of Staff

Office of Supervisor Hillary Ronen

[amy.beinart@sfgov.org](mailto:amy.beinart@sfgov.org)

<https://sfbos.org/supervisor-ronen-district-9>

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**Sent:** Friday, January 8, 2021 9:57 AM

**To:** Ronen, Hillary <[hillary.ronen@sfgov.org](mailto:hillary.ronen@sfgov.org)>; Beinart, Amy (BOS) <[amy.beinart@sfgov.org](mailto:amy.beinart@sfgov.org)>

**Subject:** Regarding SF Sunshine Ordinance Task Force

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

Hello-

My name is Kai Forsley and I was instructed by Victor Young to introduce myself directly.  
(Amy, we have already spoken.)

I am applying to be a member of the Sunshine Ordinance Task Force. In relation to this particular task force, I have interest in overarching accountability measures in workplace settings as well as specific interest in open government. I have always been interested in the organization of information, which is why I pursued librarianship. It is important to all that government information is well organized, easily accessible (as needed), and presented for public benefit. Joining this Task Force will allow me to support San Francisco's goal of government accountability and access to public records, documents, meetings, etc.

My specific connection to SOTF is that a case I submitted/presented to the Sunshine Ordinance Task Force set a precedent directing that *Community Benefit Districts* (CBDs) be subject to the Sunshine Ordinance. I was a board member on a local CBD and I felt that some of the business being conducted should have been available for public review. I studied Chapter 67 thoroughly, submitted my information, and after several months, SOTF members at that time agreed with my suggestion. This positive experience with the task force definitely fueled my interest.

Lastly, I have attached my resume, as advised by the office of the Clerk of the Board.

Best,

Kai Forsley, MLIS

**From:** [Beinart, Amy \(BOS\)](#)  
**To:** [Matt Yankee](#); [Young, Victor \(BOS\)](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Sunshine Ordinance Task Force Appointment  
**Date:** Thursday, January 7, 2021 2:47:37 PM

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Thanks so much for writing, Matt. I'm adding Victor Young, who serves as Clerk to the Rules Committee, to add this to the public record.

Please feel free to forward your email to the two other members of Rules Committee:

Supervisor Catherine Stefani – [Samuel.Bennett@sfgov.org](mailto:Samuel.Bennett@sfgov.org)

Supervisor Gordon Mar – [Li.Lovett@sfgov.org](mailto:Li.Lovett@sfgov.org)

Thanks much,  
~Amy

<<<<<<>>>>>>

Amy Beinart | Legislative Aide/Chief of Staff

Office of Supervisor Hillary Ronen

[amy.beinart@sfgov.org](mailto:amy.beinart@sfgov.org)

<https://sfbos.org/supervisor-ronen-district-9>

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**From:** Matt Yankee <[yankeema@gmail.com](mailto:yankeema@gmail.com)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 7, 2021 2:20 PM  
**To:** Beinart, Amy (BOS) <[amy.beinart@sfgov.org](mailto:amy.beinart@sfgov.org)>  
**Subject:** Fwd: Sunshine Ordinance Task Force Appointment

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

Hello Amy,

I sent the e-mail below to Supervisor Ronen, and I wanted to be sure you received a copy of it as well.

Thanks!

Matt Yankee

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

From: **Matt Yankee** <[yankeema@gmail.com](mailto:yankeema@gmail.com)>  
Date: Thu, Jan 7, 2021 at 2:12 PM  
Subject: Sunshine Ordinance Task Force Appointment  
To: <[Hillary.Ronen@sfgov.org](mailto:Hillary.Ronen@sfgov.org)>

Dear Supervisor Ronen,

In anticipation of the upcoming Rules Committee hearing for appointments to the Sunshine Ordinance Task Force (SOTF), I would like to take a brief moment to personally introduce myself to you. My name is Matt Yankee, and I live in the Sunset/Parkside District of San Francisco. I have been serving on the SOTF since November 2018 and have devoted over fifteen years to careers in public service, specifically in positions involving a high degree of public contact, public records, and government accessibility. I would be thrilled to continue my service on the SOTF and respectfully ask for your support in my reappointment.

I am currently the Chief of the Alameda County Clerk-Recorder's Office, where I have been employed since moving to San Francisco in 2011. Prior to moving to San Francisco, I served as the Director of Elections for Washtenaw County – Michigan's sixth largest county, and home to the City of Ann Arbor and the University of Michigan. During my tenure in these positions, I have been a passionate advocate for open government and have consistently sought ways to improve services. I strongly believe in the concept that government works for the people, and to that end, it should be as transparent as possible. Furthermore, I have been on the front lines of ensuring continued access to thousands of essential public records during the current pandemic.

I am particularly proud of the work I have accomplished on the Sunshine Ordinance Task Force since my initial appointment. As Chair of its Information Technology Committee, I led several important hearings regarding the disclosure of metadata associated with electronic records. I have also served on the Complaint Committee, the Rules Committee, and the Education, Outreach & Training Committee. More recently, I was honored to be unanimously elected as Vice-Chair of the SOTF. I also am keenly aware of the importance of quorum at SOTF meetings – and I can gladly report that I have attended every regularly scheduled meeting of the full SOTF throughout my tenure.

I would be happy to further discuss my background and qualifications with you or your staff, and to answer any questions that you may have. Please feel free to let me know if you would like to arrange some time for a short discussion. Otherwise, I look forward to attending the hearing on Monday and speaking to you then.

Sincerely,

Matt Yankee  
2615 30th Ave.  
San Francisco, CA 94116  
[yankeema@gmail.com](mailto:yankeema@gmail.com)  
Cell: (440) 623-4612  
Work: (510) 272-6798



**From:** [Beinart, Amy \(BOS\)](#)  
**To:** [Joanna Kabat](#); [Young, Victor \(BOS\)](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Sunshine Ordinance Task Force--recommendation for Laurie Jones Neighbors  
**Date:** Friday, January 8, 2021 9:07:24 AM

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Thanks so much for writing, Joanna. I'm adding Victor Young, who serves as Clerk to the Rules Committee, to add this to the public record.

Please feel free to forward your email to the two other members of Rules Committee:

Supervisor Catherine Stefani – [Samuel.Bennett@sfgov.org](mailto:Samuel.Bennett@sfgov.org)

Supervisor Gordon Mar – [Li.Lovett@sfgov.org](mailto:Li.Lovett@sfgov.org)

Thanks much,  
~Amy

<<<<<<>>>>>>

Amy Beinart | Legislative Aide/Chief of Staff

Office of Supervisor Hillary Ronen

[amy.beinart@sfgov.org](mailto:amy.beinart@sfgov.org)

<https://sfbos.org/supervisor-ronen-district-9>

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**From:** Joanna Kabat <JKabat@libertyhill.org>  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 7, 2021 11:28 PM  
**To:** Beinart, Amy (BOS) <amy.beinart@sfgov.org>  
**Subject:** Sunshine Ordinance Task Force--recommendation for Laurie Jones Neighbors

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

Dear Ms. Beinart,

I am writing on behalf of staff leadership at the Liberty Hill Foundation to support the appointment of Laurie Jones Neighbors to San Francisco's Sunshine Ordinance Task Force. It is our firm belief that Laurie would be a deeply qualified member of the task force, with profound commitment to transparent governance and community access to government systems.

We have had the benefit and pleasure of working with Laurie for more than six years in her capacity as a consultant to Liberty Hill. Laurie has worked with us to guide the work of our Commissions Training Program, as she has done with other organizations, building a network of organizations throughout the state that collectively have trained hundreds of community members on equitable decision-making, with many of these people going on to serve on boards, commissions, task forces, and neighborhoods councils. This is, of course, built on her expertise working with Urban Habitat to

create their Boards and Commissions Leadership Institute. Urban Habitat and Laurie's work is considered by many, including by Liberty Hill, to be the gold standard for building community access to, and relationships with, local governments.

Laurie's passion and excitement about the Brown Act and parliamentary procedure are matched by her knowledge and curiosity, and of course for her love of her community in San Francisco. She has professional and personal experiences that give her deep insights into how government can and should work to transform communities and individual lives through transparent and equitable decision-making. Her commitment to her community and all communities where she works is reflected in her dedication to building trusting relationships with those around her. With community equity as her north star I have great trust in her ability to be a capable and valuable member of the Task Force, in service of San Francisco.

Thank you for your consideration,

Joanna Kabat, Director, Grant Making and Capacity Building  
Jenny Punsalan Delwood, Executive Vice President

**Joanna Kabat**

Pronouns: she/her/hers

Director, Grant Making & Capacity Building | [Liberty Hill Foundation](#)

[Website](#) | [YouTube](#) | [Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#) | [Instagram](#)

**From:** [Beinart, Amy \(BOS\)](#)  
**To:** [Sarah Nelson](#); [Young, Victor \(BOS\)](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Support letter for L. J Neighbors to SOTF  
**Date:** Friday, January 8, 2021 9:18:17 AM

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Thanks so much for writing, Sarah. I'm adding Victor Young, who serves as Clerk to the Rules Committee, to add this to the public record.

Please feel free to forward your email to the two other members of Rules Committee:

Supervisor Catherine Stefani – [Samuel.Bennett@sfgov.org](mailto:Samuel.Bennett@sfgov.org)

Supervisor Gordon Mar – [Li.Lovett@sfgov.org](mailto:Li.Lovett@sfgov.org)

Thanks much,  
~Amy

<<<<<>>>>>

Amy Beinart | Legislative Aide/Chief of Staff

Office of Supervisor Hillary Ronen

[amy.beinart@sfgov.org](mailto:amy.beinart@sfgov.org)

<https://sfbos.org/supervisor-ronen-district-9>

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**From:** Sarah Nelson <sarahcnelson@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 7, 2021 9:22 PM  
**To:** Beinart, Amy (BOS) <amy.beinart@sfgov.org>  
**Subject:** Support letter for L. J Neighbors to SOTF

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

Dear Supervisors Ronen, Mar, and Stefani,

I am writing to support the appointment of Laurie Jones Neighbors to the Sunshine Ordinance Task Force.

In the 10 years that I have known Laurie she has proved to be an ethical and conscientious neighbor, as well as a compassionate teacher and guide to the complicated political universe of SF. I'm even more impressed by how diligent she is in doing the difficult and tedious work of dismantling systems of oppression and building good governance.

I teach middle school here in SFUSD and I care deeply about the city I live in. It's difficult to stay here. Our communities that have traditionally been underserved will continue to stay underserved without recruiting high quality public workers. Having Laurie Neighbors on the SOTF will benefit the

city and its residents as we work together to build back a better city.

Sincerely,

Sarah Nelson

Sarah Nelson (she/her/hers)

6-8 Science Teacher

San Francisco Community Alternative School

SFUSD

Cell: [\(415\) 729-4698](tel:4157294698)

**From:** [Richard Knee](#)  
**To:** [Ronen, Hillary](#); [Stefani, Catherine \(BOS\)](#); [Mar, Gordon \(BOS\)](#)  
**Cc:** [Young, Victor \(BOS\)](#); [REDACTED]; [Peskin, Aaron \(BOS\)](#); [Hepner, Lee \(BOS\)](#); [Wolfe Bruce](#); [Chris Hyland](#)  
**Subject:** Sunshine Ordinance Task Force appointments  
**Date:** Friday, January 8, 2021 12:33:20 AM  
**Importance:** High

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

Board of Supervisors Rules Committee  
Honorable Hillary Ronen, Chair  
Honorable Catherine Stefani  
Honorable Gordon Mar

Re: Candidacies of Jaya Padmanabhan, Chris Hyland and Bruce Wolfe for Sunshine Ordinance Task Force seats: Strongly support

During a lengthy interview with the Freedom of Information Committee of the Society of Professional Journalists' Northern California Chapter ("SPJ NorCal"), of which I am a member, Jaya Padmanabhan impressed me as someone knowledgeable on sunshine law, passionate about government transparency, and of pleasant demeanor and temperament well suited for dealing with the tension that at times surfaces during Task Force proceedings. Moreover, filling the seat for which she is nominated is extremely important, given the Task Force's depleted membership.

Also, Supervisor Aaron Peskin and his legislative aide Lee Hepner deserve thanks for leading the way in enabling SPJ NorCal to succeed New America Media as nominator for the seat for which Ms. Padmanabhan is applying.

In addition, I am pleased to endorse Chris Hyland and Bruce Wolfe for re-appointment to the Task Force. Their tenures on the Task Force overlapped mine, and they have served in excellent fashion.

Sincerely,  
Richard Knee  
Former Sunshine Ordinance Task Force member and chair

Cc: Victor Young, Clerk of the Rules Committee; Jaya Padmanabhan; Chris Hyland; Bruce Wolfe; Supervisor Aaron Peskin; Lee Hepner  
Bcc: Other interested persons



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## **Patrick Monette-Shaw**

975 Sutter Street, Apt. 6  
San Francisco, CA 94109  
Phone: (415) 292-6969 • e-mail: [pmonette-shaw@earthlink.net](mailto:pmonette-shaw@earthlink.net)

January 7, 2021

Rules Committee

San Francisco Board of Supervisors

The Honorable Hillary Ronen, Supervisor, San Francisco Board of Supervisors, Chair, Rules Committee  
The Honorable Catherine Stefani, Supervisor, San Francisco Board of Supervisors, Member, Rules Committee  
The Honorable Gordon Mar, Supervisor, San Francisco Board of Supervisors, Member, Rules Committee  
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place  
San Francisco, CA 94102

Re: **Agenda Item #2: Opposition to Re-Appointment of David Pilpel to Sunshine Ordinance Task Force (SOTF)**

Dear Chair Ronen and Rules Committee Members,

I am submitting testimony opposing any re-appointment of David Pilpel to the SOTF.

Attached, please find:

- A. Testimony I submitted to the Rules Committee opposing Mr. Pilpel's application for appointment to SOTF on April 27, 2016 when then-Supervisor Katy Tang was Chairperson of the Rules Committee, and
- B. Testimony submitted to the Rules Committee by labor leader Claire Zvanski on April 26, 2016 opposing Mr. Pilpel's application for appointment to SOTF in 2016; Ms. Zvanski's letter is a public record in the background files of the Rules Committee and her testimony was more than likely posted on-line in the public correspondence file for the Rules Committee's hearing on Pilpel's application in 2016.

Both my testimony in April 2016 and Ms. Zvanski's testimony in April 2016 are part and parcel of the historical record on why Mr. Pilpel should never be re-appointed to SOTF — not now, and not ever.

In summary, the reasons the current Rules Committee should not even recommend to the full Board of Supervisor Pilpel for appointment to SOTF include:

- 1. Although the Rules Committee in 2016 forwarded a recommendation to the full Board of Supervisors to potentially consider Pilpel for re-appointment to the SOTF, the full Board had the wisdom not to do so, and Mr. Pilpel was **not** re-appointed to SOTF when his term expired in 2016.
- 2. Pilpel's prior disruptive behavior as a member of two policy bodies — the SFMTA's *Citizens Advisory Council* (CAC) and the PUC's CAC — prevented his being re-appointed to either policy body. Mr. Pilpel's application dated January 6, 2021 cited his service on those two policy bodies in the "Civic Activities" section of his application, but he failed to note to this Rules Committee that he was **not** re-appointed to either policy body.

I learned the weekend of April 24, 2016 by reliable report that former Supervisor Katy Tang — the then-chairperson of the Rules Committee — was responsible for, or instrumental in, blocking David Pilpel's re-appointment to both the SFMTA Citizen's Advisory Council (CAC) and to the SF PUC's Citizen's Advisory Committee (CAC) due to many complaints from both CAC members and SFMTA staff.

- 3. Public testimony submitted in April 2016 (see attached) documented Pilpel's previous history of rifling through the desks of SFMTA employees at MUNI's headquarters after hours. He did so not as a once or twice occurrence, but as a regular practice. By report, he continued to snoop around City offices for a number of years.
- 4. Pilpel has refused to recuse himself from hearing SOTF complaints after the complainants noted his conflict of interest, or perceived conflicts of interest.

January 7, 2021

**Agenda Item #2: Opposition to Re-Appointment of David Pilpel to Sunshine Ordinance Task Force**

Page 2

5. Pilpel's attendance record at 15 SOTF meetings held between October 2013 and August 2014 when he was appointed on the SOTF was pathetic; he missed four — 26.7% — of those 15 meetings.
6. Pilpel was observed engaging in *ex parte* communications with City department employees named as respondents in Sunshine complaints filed with SOTF, jeopardizing the outcome of proceedings for the complainants.
7. Two complaints were filed with the Ethics Commission for violations of the Statements of Incompatible Activities applicable to Board of Supervisors and SOTF members.
8. Pilpel withheld and misrepresented key information regarding due process issues from the Rules Committee in 2014 when the 2014 Rules Committee was considering re-appointing him to SOTF in 2014.
9. By report, Pilpel also exhibited on-going disruptive behavior when he served on the Redistricting Task Force, but of course, he also didn't mention that in his January 6, 2021 application for re-appointment to the SOTF.
10. On April 6, 2016, an hour-and-a-half into a Sunshine Task Force meeting, Pilpel suddenly requested being recused from hearing a complaint filed by Ray Hartz, Jr. involving the Ethics Commission. The MP3 audio of that meeting shows that then-Task Force Member Mark Rumold — a lawyer who held a Task Force seat reserved for nominations from the Society of Professional Journalists — noted that the Task Force may potentially want to eventually discuss whether Pilpel had abused his duties as a member of the Task Force often.

The now current Rules Committee must not make the same mistake of forwarding Pilpel's name to the full Board of Supervisors for consideration of re-appointment to the SOTF.

This time, on January 11, 2011 the Rules Committee should forward an explicit recommendation to the full Board of Supervisors clearly rejecting appointing Mr. Pilpel and specifically declining to submit his name for any further consideration by the full Board of Supervisors.

As I noted in April 2016, leopards rarely change their spots and tigers rarely change their stripes. Both animals rarely change their behavior. So, too, with David Pilpel.

It's time to stop considering him for appointment to any Board or Commission in City government, since he's far too disruptive to transparency and accountability.

Respectfully submitted,

**Patrick Monette-Shaw**

*Columnist/Reporter*

*Westside Observer* Newspaper

## **Patrick Monette-Shaw**

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975 Sutter Street, Apt. 6  
San Francisco, CA 94109  
Phone: (415) 292-6969 • e-mail: [pmonette-shaw@earthlink.net](mailto:pmonette-shaw@earthlink.net)

April 27, 2016

### **Rules Committee**

#### **San Francisco Board of Supervisors**

The Honorable Katy Tang, Supervisor, San Francisco Board of Supervisors, Chair, Rules Committee

The Honorable Eric Mar, Supervisor, San Francisco Board of Supervisors, Member, Rules Committee

The Honorable Malia Cohen, Supervisor, San Francisco Board of Supervisors, Member, Rules Committee

1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place

San Francisco, CA 94102

Re: **Opposition to Re-Appointment of David Pilpel to Sunshine Ordinance Task Force**

Dear Rules Committee Members,

Please do not approve recommending applicant David Pilpel to another term on the SOTF for the following reasons.

#### **Prior Disruptive Behavior Prevented His Re-Appointment to Two CAC's**

Mr. Pilpel's behavior as a member of other policy bodies has been totally disruptive.

Despite Pilpel's claim on his application that he has served on the SFMTA CAC, SFPUUC CAC, and on the Redistricting Task Force, he was not re-appointed to the MTA CAC in 2009 or earlier, reportedly due to his disruptive behavior and badgering of MTA CAC members and MTA staff. Similarly, within approximately the past year Pilpel was not re-appointed to the PUC CAC for the largely the same reason, as Supervisor Tang must be aware. And by report, Pilpel was extremely disruptive when he served on the Redistricting Task Force.

#### **Poor Attendance Record**

Between October 2, 2013 and August 24, 2014, the SOTF held 15 meetings. Pilpel was absent four times — 26.7% — of those 14 meetings.

#### **Refusal to Recuse Himself vs. Recusal From Hearing Complaints**

- On May 5, 2015, a Sunshine complaint filed by Brian Browne against the SF PUC was calendared for a hearing before the Sunshine Task Force. Browne — aware that Pilpel was then serving on the PUC's CAC — requested that Pilpel recuse himself from hearing Browne's complaint due to a potential conflict of interest. Pilpel refused, and announced that although he was a member of the PUC's CAC, he should NOT have to recuse himself. Browne's complaint was continued to a future meeting of the Task Force.
- On April 6, 2016, an hour-and-a-half into the Sunshine Task Force's meeting, Pilpel suddenly requested being recused from hearing a complaint filed by Ray Hartz, Jr. involving the Ethics Commission. Pilpel admitted he had attended the Ethics Commission's January 25 meeting and had testified several times that the Commission was making a mistake because he felt an item on the Ethics Commission's agenda "was not framed properly for public discussion." Pilpel felt the Ethics Commission was not conducting themselves appropriately. Subsequently Hartz filed a Sunshine complaint concerning the Ethics Commission's January 25 meeting.

Pilpel claimed he had been speaking as a "private citizen" but it was obvious he was providing advice to the Ethics Commission in his role as a member of the Sunshine Task Force.

Hartz's complaint that was supposed to be heard on April 6 involved the new Executive Director of Ethics, LeeAnn Pelham. The draft minutes of the Task Force's April 6 minutes only reported that Pilpel wanted to avoid the appearance of bias.



Pilpel requested to be recused from hearing the matter. The MP3 audio file of the April 6 Task Force meeting shows that Pilpel stated during the meeting that “my view is that I have either bias, or the appearance thereof” [for having spoken during the Ethics Commission’s meeting on January 25]. But there should have been no need for him to recuse himself if he had, in fact, been speaking as a private citizen. And there should have been no question about whether Pilpel was engaging in “bias” if he had been speaking as a member of the public.

The MP3 audio also shows that Task Force Member Mark Rumold — a lawyer who holds a Task Force seat reserved for nominations from the Society of Professional Journalists — noted that potentially the Task Force may want to eventually discuss whether Pilpel has abused his duties as a member of the Task Force often, and that, if so, the Task Force we could take some action later.

There doesn’t seem to be much rhyme or reason as to when Pilpel decides whether or not to request being recused from hearing items on the agenda.

### **Ex Parte Communications**

On May 5, 2015 following the hearing on Brian Browne’s Sunshine complainant, Pilpel raced up to the SFPUC representative who had attended the hearing and who was enroute to the elevator, and began speaking with the PUC rep. Browne reportedly said “Mr. Pilpel, I hope you are not talking to her about my case.” It’s one of many examples — not an isolated occurrence — of Pilpel having sidebar — *ex parte* — conversations with respondents regarding Sunshine complaints prior to hearing the merits of a complainant’s formal complaint.

### **Undermining Sunshine Complainants**

Also in 2015, Pilpel submitted a letter to the Ethics Commission prior to an Ethics Commission hearing involving a Sunshine complaint Paula Datesch had filed against the Art Commission that the Task Force had referred to the Ethics for enforcement. Pilpel intentionally interfered with the Ethics Commission’s deliberations by offering his so-called “personal opinion” on a matter that the Task Force had already ruled on and had concluded. Pilpel has no compulsion about trying to overturn Sunshine Task Force decisions that he doesn’t agree with, and is brazen enough to show up at Ethics hearings to intentionally undercut official Orders of Determination the Task Force had issued.

It is thought Pilpel has interfered with other concluded Orders of Determination issued by the Task Force after-the-fact, and this is not an isolated incident.

### **Two Ethics Complaints Involving Violations of the Statement of Incompatible Activities Applicable to the Board of Supervisors and SOTF Members**

In 2014 I filed two Ethics complaints against Mr. Pilpel alleging that he had violated the SIA applicable to SOTF members. In the first Ethics complaint, I noted Pilpel had identified himself during public comment at a meeting of the Ethics Commission as “David Pilpel, Member of SOTF,” rather than as a member of the public, as if he were authorized to speak on behalf of the full Task Force.

After I filed my complaints, Pilpel became somewhat more careful to claim he addresses policy bodies as a member of the public, although he has been reported by other observers as having continued to identify himself as a member of SOTF when addressing other policy bodies.

Mr. Pilpel had **not** sought an Advance Written Determination that testifying to the Ethics Commission about a Sunshine Complaint adjudicated and finalized by the full Task Force is **not** incompatible with his official duties.

In my second Ethics complaint, the underlying issue was not whether Mr. Pilpel is permitted to speak before other policy bodies on issues **outside** the scope of his duties as a member of the Sunshine Task Force (for example speaking during a meeting of a Commission considering a land use matter that might affect Mr. Pilpel’s neighborhood). Instead, the underlying issue was whether Pilpel is permitted to speak to another policy body on issues that are **inside** the scope of his duties as a Sunshine Task Force member (i.e., speaking about a matter inside the scope of his duties, **after** the full Task Force had concluded the matter and referred it to the Ethics Commission for enforcement).

April 27, 2016

**Opposition to Re-Appointment of David Pilpel to Sunshine Ordinance Task Force**

Page 3

When Mr. Pilpel voluntarily became a member of the Task Force, he was automatically bound under the governing SIA to restrict his testimony on matters falling *inside* the scope of his duties before other bodies. As a member of the Task Force, he has a duty to support and abide by decisions reached by a majority of Task Force members.

Pilpel's *ex parte* communications with other Policy Bodies and his testimony during other Policy Body meetings are a ruse when he claims to be speaking as a private citizen. His claims are a sham, when not a pretense or pretext, since it is clear he is trying to provide testimony in his role as a member of the Task Force, not so much as a member of the public.

His ruse needs to stop, and the Rules Committee can do so by refusing to advance him for consideration for re-appointment to the Task Force. Please refuse to support him application; it's long overdue that you dump him off of SOTF.

**Pilpel Withheld Key Information from Rules Committee in May 2014**

To the extent that Pilpel sought to sway the Rules Committee into re-appointing him to the Sunshine Task Force on May 15, 2014 by blabbing his wild assertion that members of the SOTF didn't understand where "due process attaches," he may have gamed re-appointment to the Task Force by withholding informing Supervisors Yee and Tang on May 15 that just 17 days earlier when Pilpel had raised the "due process" issue during the Sunshine complaint hearing involving Phil Ginsburg before the Ethics Commission, Deputy City Attorney Josh White who advises the Ethics Commission, had to interject and inform Ethics Commissioners that "due process" didn't apply.

It is completely egregious that Pilpel — who must have fully understood DCA White's clear City Attorney advice — withheld DCA White's advice from Tang and Yee in 2014, and repeated the "due process" misinformation that White had shot down, during his testimony seeking re-appointment to the Task Force. Indeed, it could be argued that by ignoring DCA White's "City Attorney opinion," and repeating due process misinformation, Pilpel had failed Katy Tang's "litmus test" of undying fealty to City Attorney "advice" as a condition of appointment to the Task Force.

**Conclusion**

The Rules Committee should not make the same mistake twice by referring Mr. Pilpel for re-appointment to the Task Force again, after he duped you in May 2014.

After all, leopards rarely change their spots, and tigers rarely change their stripes. Both animals rarely change their behavior. So, too, with David Pilpel. It's time to get rid of him as being too disruptive.

Respectfully submitted,

**Patrick Monette-Shaw**

*Columnist/Reporter*

*Westside Observer Newspaper*

Below is the testimony Claire Zvanski submitted on April 26, 2016 opposing the appointment of David Pilpel to the Sunshine Ordinance Task Force. Zvanski's letter is a public record that was posted on-line to the Rules Committee in April 2016.

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**Evans, Derek**

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**From:** Tang, Katy (BOS)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 26, 2016 11:46 AM  
**To:** Evans, Derek  
**Subject:** FW: Rules Committee appointment consideration

**For the clerk's records**

**From:** claire zvanski [mailto:czvanski@hotmail.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 26, 2016 3:51 AM  
**To:** Mar, Eric (BOS) <eric.mar@sfgov.org>; Cohen, Malia (BOS) <malia.cohen@sfgov.org>; Tang, Katy (BOS) <katy.tang@sfgov.org>  
**Subject:** Rules Committee appointment consideration

Dear Supervisors:

It is my understanding that the Rules Committee will be considering appointments to the Sunshine Task Force this Thursday, April 28. It is also my understanding that David Pilpel has submitted his application for reappointment to that task force.

I have known David for more than 25 years. He was a teenager when I used to have to physically extract him from offices at MUNI headquarters (on Presidio at Geary in those days). He was regularly rifling through desks of managers and other employees and also going through our file cabinets for "information" on various projects and issues. He would often come in after hours when those managers would have gone home for the day. This was not a once or twice occurrence. It was a regular practice for a very long time. He was reported, but he continued to do this as long as the doors of the building were not locked. Later, security measures were taken and he could not easily access our building after hours. So, he would come in and "visit" with various managers at the end of the day but not leave the building at closing.

Mr. Pilpel has continued to probe/snoop into City business and City offices over the years. As a retired City employee with nearly 40 years of service behind me, I found and continue to find Mr. Pilpel's methods despicable and his motives questionable. While I support transparency and the public's right to know, I also understand the need for files and work products to remain protected. There is a time and place for everything.

All this is to say that I don't believe Mr. Pilpel is appropriate for reappointment to the Sunshine Task Force. Colleagues of mine have told me of his ongoing unorthodox methods in seeking information and also his harassment of both City employees and elected/appointed individuals. These are unprofessional methods and behaviors that should not be rewarded by appointment to an official City body, especially the Sunshine Task Force.

Please reject the reappointment of David Pilpel to the Sunshine Task Force.

Thank you very much for your consideration of this request.

Claire Zvanski

(37.5 years retired career public service with CCSF; 26 years on HSS board)

**From:** [Beinart, Amy \(BOS\)](#)  
**To:** [Kai Forsley](#); [Ronen, Hillary](#); [Young, Victor \(BOS\)](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Regarding SF Sunshine Ordinance Task Force  
**Date:** Friday, January 8, 2021 10:08:31 AM

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Kai, thank you so much for reaching out.

Please feel free to forward your email also to the two other members of Rules Committee:

Supervisor Catherine Stefani – [Samuel.Bennett@sfgov.org](mailto:Samuel.Bennett@sfgov.org)

Supervisor Gordon Mar – [Li.Lovett@sfgov.org](mailto:Li.Lovett@sfgov.org)

Thanks much,  
~Amy

<<<<<<>>>>>>

Amy Beinart | Legislative Aide/Chief of Staff

Office of Supervisor Hillary Ronen

[amy.beinart@sfgov.org](mailto:amy.beinart@sfgov.org)

<https://sfbos.org/supervisor-ronen-district-9>

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**From:** Kai Forsley <[forsley@outlook.com](mailto:forsley@outlook.com)>  
**Sent:** Friday, January 8, 2021 9:57 AM  
**To:** Ronen, Hillary <[hillary.ronen@sfgov.org](mailto:hillary.ronen@sfgov.org)>; Beinart, Amy (BOS) <[amy.beinart@sfgov.org](mailto:amy.beinart@sfgov.org)>  
**Subject:** Regarding SF Sunshine Ordinance Task Force

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

Hello-

My name is Kai Forsley and I was instructed by Victor Young to introduce myself directly.  
(Amy, we have already spoken.)

I am applying to be a member of the Sunshine Ordinance Task Force. In relation to this particular task force, I have interest in overarching accountability measures in workplace settings as well as specific interest in open government. I have always been interested in the organization of information, which is why I pursued librarianship. It is important to all that government information is well organized, easily accessible (as needed), and presented for public benefit. Joining this Task Force will allow me to support San Francisco's goal of government accountability and access to public records, documents, meetings, etc.

My specific connection to SOTF is that a case I submitted/presented to the Sunshine Ordinance Task Force set a precedent directing that *Community Benefit Districts* (CBDs) be subject to the Sunshine Ordinance. I was a board member on a local CBD and I felt that some of the business being conducted should have been available for public review. I studied Chapter 67 thoroughly, submitted my information, and after several months, SOTF members at that time agreed with my suggestion. This positive experience with the task force definitely fueled my interest.

Lastly, I have attached my resume, as advised by the office of the Clerk of the Board.

Best,

Kai Forsley, MLIS

**From:** [Beinart, Amy \(BOS\)](#)  
**To:** [Matt Yankee](#); [Young, Victor \(BOS\)](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Sunshine Ordinance Task Force Appointment  
**Date:** Thursday, January 7, 2021 2:47:37 PM

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Thanks so much for writing, Matt. I'm adding Victor Young, who serves as Clerk to the Rules Committee, to add this to the public record.

Please feel free to forward your email to the two other members of Rules Committee:

Supervisor Catherine Stefani – [Samuel.Bennett@sfgov.org](mailto:Samuel.Bennett@sfgov.org)

Supervisor Gordon Mar – [Li.Lovett@sfgov.org](mailto:Li.Lovett@sfgov.org)

Thanks much,  
~Amy

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Amy Beinart | Legislative Aide/Chief of Staff

Office of Supervisor Hillary Ronen

[amy.beinart@sfgov.org](mailto:amy.beinart@sfgov.org)

<https://sfbos.org/supervisor-ronen-district-9>

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**From:** Matt Yankee <[yankeema@gmail.com](mailto:yankeema@gmail.com)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 7, 2021 2:20 PM  
**To:** Beinart, Amy (BOS) <[amy.beinart@sfgov.org](mailto:amy.beinart@sfgov.org)>  
**Subject:** Fwd: Sunshine Ordinance Task Force Appointment

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

Hello Amy,

I sent the e-mail below to Supervisor Ronen, and I wanted to be sure you received a copy of it as well.

Thanks!

Matt Yankee

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

From: **Matt Yankee** <[yankeema@gmail.com](mailto:yankeema@gmail.com)>  
Date: Thu, Jan 7, 2021 at 2:12 PM  
Subject: Sunshine Ordinance Task Force Appointment  
To: <[Hillary.Ronen@sfgov.org](mailto:Hillary.Ronen@sfgov.org)>

Dear Supervisor Ronen,

In anticipation of the upcoming Rules Committee hearing for appointments to the Sunshine Ordinance Task Force (SOTF), I would like to take a brief moment to personally introduce myself to you. My name is Matt Yankee, and I live in the Sunset/Parkside District of San Francisco. I have been serving on the SOTF since November 2018 and have devoted over fifteen years to careers in public service, specifically in positions involving a high degree of public contact, public records, and government accessibility. I would be thrilled to continue my service on the SOTF and respectfully ask for your support in my reappointment.

I am currently the Chief of the Alameda County Clerk-Recorder's Office, where I have been employed since moving to San Francisco in 2011. Prior to moving to San Francisco, I served as the Director of Elections for Washtenaw County – Michigan's sixth largest county, and home to the City of Ann Arbor and the University of Michigan. During my tenure in these positions, I have been a passionate advocate for open government and have consistently sought ways to improve services. I strongly believe in the concept that government works for the people, and to that end, it should be as transparent as possible. Furthermore, I have been on the front lines of ensuring continued access to thousands of essential public records during the current pandemic.

I am particularly proud of the work I have accomplished on the Sunshine Ordinance Task Force since my initial appointment. As Chair of its Information Technology Committee, I led several important hearings regarding the disclosure of metadata associated with electronic records. I have also served on the Complaint Committee, the Rules Committee, and the Education, Outreach & Training Committee. More recently, I was honored to be unanimously elected as Vice-Chair of the SOTF. I also am keenly aware of the importance of quorum at SOTF meetings – and I can gladly report that I have attended every regularly scheduled meeting of the full SOTF throughout my tenure.

I would be happy to further discuss my background and qualifications with you or your staff, and to answer any questions that you may have. Please feel free to let me know if you would like to arrange some time for a short discussion. Otherwise, I look forward to attending the hearing on Monday and speaking to you then.

Sincerely,

Matt Yankee  
2615 30th Ave.  
San Francisco, CA 94116  
[yankeema@gmail.com](mailto:yankeema@gmail.com)  
Cell: (440) 623-4612  
Work: (510) 272-6798

**From:** [Beinart, Amy \(BOS\)](#)  
**To:** [Chandra Ray](#)  
**Cc:** [Young, Victor \(BOS\)](#)  
**Subject:** Re: Sunshine Ordinance Task Force Email of Support  
**Date:** Saturday, January 9, 2021 9:35:34 PM

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Thanks so much for writing, Chandra. I'm adding Victor Young, who serves as Clerk to the Rules Committee, to add this to the public record.

Please feel free to forward your email to the two other members of Rules Committee:

Supervisor Catherine Stefani – [Samuel.Bennett@sfgov.org](mailto:Samuel.Bennett@sfgov.org)  
Supervisor Gordon Mar – [Li.Lovett@sfgov.org](mailto:Li.Lovett@sfgov.org)

Thanks much,  
~Amy

>>>>>>>>>>

Amy Beinart| Legislative Aide/Chief of Staff  
Office of Supervisor Hillary Ronen  
| [amy.beinart@sfgov.org](mailto:amy.beinart@sfgov.org)  
<https://sfbos.org/supervisor-ronen-district-9>

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**From:** Chandra Ray <[chandraray@gmail.com](mailto:chandraray@gmail.com)>  
**Sent:** Saturday, January 9, 2021 3:54:48 PM  
**To:** Beinart, Amy (BOS) <[amy.beinart@sfgov.org](mailto:amy.beinart@sfgov.org)>  
**Subject:** Sunshine Ordinance Task Force Email of Support

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

Good Afternoon Ms. Beinart,  
I hope you are well.  
Please see my email below in support of Laurie Jones Neighbors for the Sunshine Ordinance Task Force.

The San Francisco Board of Supervisors Rules Committee:

My name is Chandra Ray and I am writing to support the appointment of Laurie Jones Neighbors to the Sunshine Ordinance Task Force. I have known Laurie Jones Neighbors for over a decade and believe that she has the knowledge, skills, and experience to serve the people of San Francisco with integrity.



Ms. Jones Neighbors' commitment to helping communities strengthen their self-advocacy is far reaching and is not confined to boardrooms, but extends to classrooms and grassroots networks.

Ms. Jones Neighbors has a strong policy background and she has long been a proponent of equity and transparent leadership in our public and non-public institutions.

In this time of glaring inequity in San Francisco it is important that this appointment is held by someone who is invested in working on behalf of the diverse communities of San Francisco, including those most marginalized. Laurie Jones Neighbors has demonstrated the ability to work across differences and engage in meaningful and equitable decision making, which is necessary for a stronger government that serves the people. For the reasons listed above and many more, Laurie Jones Neighbors would make an excellent choice for the Sunshine Ordinance Task Force.

Sincerely,

Chandra Ray, LCSW

**From:** [Beinart, Amy \(BOS\)](#)  
**To:** [Joanna Kabat](#); [Young, Victor \(BOS\)](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Sunshine Ordinance Task Force--recommendation for Laurie Jones Neighbors  
**Date:** Friday, January 8, 2021 9:07:24 AM

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Thanks so much for writing, Joanna. I'm adding Victor Young, who serves as Clerk to the Rules Committee, to add this to the public record.

Please feel free to forward your email to the two other members of Rules Committee:

Supervisor Catherine Stefani – [Samuel.Bennett@sfgov.org](mailto:Samuel.Bennett@sfgov.org)

Supervisor Gordon Mar – [Li.Lovett@sfgov.org](mailto:Li.Lovett@sfgov.org)

Thanks much,  
~Amy

<<<<<<>>>>>>

Amy Beinart | Legislative Aide/Chief of Staff

Office of Supervisor Hillary Ronen

[amy.beinart@sfgov.org](mailto:amy.beinart@sfgov.org)

<https://sfbos.org/supervisor-ronen-district-9>

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**From:** Joanna Kabat <JKabat@libertyhill.org>  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 7, 2021 11:28 PM  
**To:** Beinart, Amy (BOS) <amy.beinart@sfgov.org>  
**Subject:** Sunshine Ordinance Task Force--recommendation for Laurie Jones Neighbors

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

Dear Ms. Beinart,

I am writing on behalf of staff leadership at the Liberty Hill Foundation to support the appointment of Laurie Jones Neighbors to San Francisco's Sunshine Ordinance Task Force. It is our firm belief that Laurie would be a deeply qualified member of the task force, with profound commitment to transparent governance and community access to government systems.

We have had the benefit and pleasure of working with Laurie for more than six years in her capacity as a consultant to Liberty Hill. Laurie has worked with us to guide the work of our Commissions Training Program, as she has done with other organizations, building a network of organizations throughout the state that collectively have trained hundreds of community members on equitable decision-making, with many of these people going on to serve on boards, commissions, task forces, and neighborhoods councils. This is, of course, built on her expertise working with Urban Habitat to

create their Boards and Commissions Leadership Institute. Urban Habitat and Laurie's work is considered by many, including by Liberty Hill, to be the gold standard for building community access to, and relationships with, local governments.

Laurie's passion and excitement about the Brown Act and parliamentary procedure are matched by her knowledge and curiosity, and of course for her love of her community in San Francisco. She has professional and personal experiences that give her deep insights into how government can and should work to transform communities and individual lives through transparent and equitable decision-making. Her commitment to her community and all communities where she works is reflected in her dedication to building trusting relationships with those around her. With community equity as her north star I have great trust in her ability to be a capable and valuable member of the Task Force, in service of San Francisco.

Thank you for your consideration,

Joanna Kabat, Director, Grant Making and Capacity Building  
Jenny Punsalan Delwood, Executive Vice President

**Joanna Kabat**

Pronouns: she/her/hers

Director, Grant Making & Capacity Building | [Liberty Hill Foundation](#)

[Website](#) | [YouTube](#) | [Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#) | [Instagram](#)

**From:** [Beinart, Amy \(BOS\)](#)  
**To:** [Sarah Nelson](#); [Young, Victor \(BOS\)](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Support letter for L. J Neighbors to SOTF  
**Date:** Friday, January 8, 2021 9:18:17 AM

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Thanks so much for writing, Sarah. I'm adding Victor Young, who serves as Clerk to the Rules Committee, to add this to the public record.

Please feel free to forward your email to the two other members of Rules Committee:

Supervisor Catherine Stefani – [Samuel.Bennett@sfgov.org](mailto:Samuel.Bennett@sfgov.org)

Supervisor Gordon Mar – [Li.Lovett@sfgov.org](mailto:Li.Lovett@sfgov.org)

Thanks much,  
~Amy

<<<<<>>>>>

Amy Beinart | Legislative Aide/Chief of Staff

Office of Supervisor Hillary Ronen

[amy.beinart@sfgov.org](mailto:amy.beinart@sfgov.org)

<https://sfbos.org/supervisor-ronen-district-9>

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**From:** Sarah Nelson <sarahcnelson@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 7, 2021 9:22 PM  
**To:** Beinart, Amy (BOS) <amy.beinart@sfgov.org>  
**Subject:** Support letter for L. J Neighbors to SOTF

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

Dear Supervisors Ronen, Mar, and Stefani,

I am writing to support the appointment of Laurie Jones Neighbors to the Sunshine Ordinance Task Force.

In the 10 years that I have known Laurie she has proved to be an ethical and conscientious neighbor, as well as a compassionate teacher and guide to the complicated political universe of SF. I'm even more impressed by how diligent she is in doing the difficult and tedious work of dismantling systems of oppression and building good governance.

I teach middle school here in SFUSD and I care deeply about the city I live in. It's difficult to stay here. Our communities that have traditionally been underserved will continue to stay underserved without recruiting high quality public workers. Having Laurie Neighbors on the SOTF will benefit the

city and its residents as we work together to build back a better city.

Sincerely,

Sarah Nelson

Sarah Nelson (she/her/hers)

6-8 Science Teacher

San Francisco Community Alternative School

SFUSD

Cell: [\(415\) 729-4698](tel:4157294698)

**From:** [Conchita Lozano](#)  
**To:** [Young, Victor \(BOS\)](#)  
**Subject:** Recommendation to SOTF for Laurie Jones Neighbors  
**Date:** Monday, January 11, 2021 10:04:16 PM

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

Dear Mr. Young,

I write in support of Laurie Jones Neighbors' appointment to the Sunshine Ordinance Task Force (SOTF). I am a neighbor of Laurie and a personal friend. Laurie has dedicated much of her career to teaching people about governance and supporting them in their quest to become public officials. Laurie is dedicated to the principle that government belongs to the people. Laurie has shared with me that were she to be selected to the task force, she would focus on education--helping residents of San Francisco understand what the Sunshine Ordinance is and its use in restoring faith in government through accountability. Laurie would also work to strengthen the Ordinance and ensure that it is accessible to all. Laurie is dedicated to the principles of transparency and accountability and sees these as the backbone of good government. Laurie would like San Francisco's Ordinance to be seen as a model for the rest of the country.

As a member and Chair of San Francisco's Sweatfree Procurement Advisory Group (SPAG), I know that Laurie can do the work that the Task Force demands. As an attorney, I know firsthand how important and vital the work of SOTF is. Laurie and I share a strong commitment to ensuring that San Francisco is a leader in progressive values and innovative ways of governing. I hope that the Board of Supervisors will select Laurie to sit on the SOTF. I know that she will contribute greatly to the work of SOTF and to San Francisco.

Thank you for your time,

Conchita Lozano-Batista

**From:** [Anonymous](#)  
**To:** [Peskin, Aaron \(BOS\)](#); [ChanStaff](#); [MandelmanStaff, \[BOS\]](#); [PeskinStaff \(BOS\)](#)  
**Cc:** [Young, Victor \(BOS\)](#)  
**Subject:** Regarding SOTF appointments and the legality of pre-judging SOTF complaints  
**Date:** Monday, January 11, 2021 2:53:14 PM  
**Attachments:** [signature.asc](#)

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Dear Chair Peskin and Rules Committee Members: (*Written comment re SOTF appointments*)

First, I will repeat my oral comments: that your Committee should immediately recommend Seat 4 for appointment, eventually appoint a full 11 person body, should encourage more young people and journalists to join, and ensure the Task Force has understanding of the modern technologies the City uses to house their public records (the last of which I think the Task Force has, in good measure). I say that as a young person, a professional computer scientist, and someone who has anonymously worked with journalists to break numerous stories about SF and beyond using the CPRA.

Second, one of your applicants Mr. Pilpel today urged the Committee to take two positions that do not pass legal muster. I speak to his positions, not his person:

**(a) removing "unimportant" complaints before conducting a hearing. SOTF cannot pre-judge substantive decisions about dismissal outside of a public hearing.**

**Many SOTF complainants do not have the legal or financial resources to prepare substantial legal briefs for their cases, nor can they rattle off legal citations. That doesn't make their cases dismissible by fiat. This is a fundamental access-to-justice issue. Three examples:**

- Months ago, a complainant Mr. Warfield asked SOTF to demand released a *single phrase* that was important to him that the City withheld. Without hearing the case, SOTF would never have been able to determine that this information, *because it identified a paid City contractor*, was in fact disclosable. Under Mr. Pilpel's rubric, who would have known this case about one phrase was important? And how would that be fair to Mr. Warfield?
- Another complainant argued that, although records had been previously disclosed under civil discovery, he was separately requesting similar records under the PRA. Again, the City argued for the frivolity of the case. And yet the rules of exemption under Public Records Act/Sunshine disclosure are not the same as civil discovery, and thus the complainant can be entitled to more disclosure under PRA than under a suit.
- Yet another complainant argued that she had been excluded from a public meeting. The City asked the case be thrown out because it was captioned as a public records, not a public meeting, case. I argued (in public comment) in the Complainant's favor that just because her complaint had been mischaracterized by City employees did not mean her rights could be ignored. This mischaracterization required a hearing to prevent dismissal of her case.

Tribunals like SOTF cannot prejudge a complaint before conducting a hearing, nor can they do so outside of a Brown Act-noticed public meeting setting. Consider if Mr. Pilpel's own complaints against the City could be dismissed prior to the Board hearing them, and just apply the Golden Rule.

**(b) banning anonymous records requesters, like me. Be thoughtful about the legality of such a position, and whether your Committee will endorse it.**

**No court has ever held, nor is there any section of law stating, that the Public Records Act, Brown Act, nor the Sunshine Ordinance permit anyone in government to demand your identity** (*except when the disclosure decision depends on your identity, such as for crime victims*). In fact, important constitutional cases re: the CPRA have been conducted under a pseudonym even in court (see *Publius v Boyer-Vine*).

I engage, anonymously, with the City and with other journalists day in and day out. I and others like me have a right to investigate City wrongdoing while protecting my identity, and disclosing my identity would allow retaliation against and endanger me. My **anonymous** requests, complaints, and vigorous pursuit of the City's executive agencies have brought the following benefits and stories to the public:

- Production of the Harlan Kelly - Walter Wong text messages, whose topics and alleged evasion of the PRA/Sunshine are directly referenced in the US DOJ charges against Kelly
- Production of Public Works invoices re: Mohammed Nuru and the holiday party contractors
- Ensuring that the Police Commission, City Attorney's Office, Police Department justifies their redactions, *as required by law*, (SOTF 19098, 19121, 19120). As the Police Commission and Police Department previously testified, my complaints caused their departments to go through retraining, and now police misconduct (SB 1421) records will be properly produced.
- Working with the CIO and CISO at the Department of Technology on their pilot program for accurate production of electronic public records. I programmed, for free, the initial version of the open source software to do this work more easily and gave it to DT, and I pursued the SOTF complaints (SOTF 19044, 19047, 19097, 19098, 19119) that made this an enforceable right for all members of the public under the Ordinance, *over 14 years after the Board (incl Sup. Peskin) made the same principled decision for its own records*. This is the result of the long-standing project discussed by SOTF members, which involved numerous hearings and consultations with City departments. My anonymous complaints and the SOTF's decisions have caused *meaningful change* in how the City handles electronic records.
- Forcing the revelation of the Mayor's second, previously hidden, business calendar and the same for the Chief of Police (SOTF 19047, 19108). These officials have their "public" Prop G calendar, and also a more detailed calendar that they previously would not disclose, but now must and in fact do.
- Production of Mayor Breed/Chief Scott text messages about treatment of homeless persons, which spurred numerous members of the SF community to actively become records requesters
- Ensuring that the people have the right to know the *topics* of the Mayor and Chief Scott's scheduled future meetings, even if security concerns mean we cannot know the location (SOTF 19103, 19108)
- Production of copies of Breed and Elsbernd's texts, even though they had deleted their own copies (I went to the rest of the City for their own copies).
- Forced multiple department heads to create a proper Proposition G calendar noting their past meetings *who never do so before*
- and much more



**All** of these were a result of my anonymous requests and complaints. I am extremely proud of my work and thankful for the SOTF's considered judgment in my cases, even when they have to spend months researching legal intricacies or when they eventually rule against me. In doing all this, I am certainly not a popular person in City Hall, and also probably with some of you. But that shouldn't matter. Sadly, while I repeatedly offer agencies the opportunity to use my complaints as a learning experience and to commit in writing to improve so I can withdraw the issue, only two departments have ever taken me up on these offers: Emily Murase of the Dept on Status of Women and Linda Gerull of the Department of Technology, and I commend them for it (as did the SOTF recently). In general, City agencies are adamant that they don't have to abide by the various rules that ensure government transparency, until SOTF forces them to do so. Mere education via "suggestions" without any teeth does not cause meaningful improvements (as someone who has often pled for months with the City to comply before SOTF orders are issued).

Finally, I will not speak for or against applicant David Pilpel himself, but only his positions. I am no judge of his character, and have no idea who he is, outside of a Google search showing some history with the City. To my knowledge, I have never met, and as far as I can tell, I have no personal issue with this applicant. Apparently, my only interaction with Mr. Pilpel is I have once spoken in support of his public comments made at SOTF, ***because it is the ideas that should determine who is right, not the person speaking them, whether anonymous or not.***

=====

***NOTE: Nothing herein is legal, IT, or professional advice of any kind. The author disclaims all warranties, express or implied, including but not limited to all warranties of merchantability or fitness. In no event shall the author be liable for any special, direct, indirect, consequential, or any other damages whatsoever. The digital signature (signature.asc attachment), if any, in this email is not an indication of a binding agreement or offer; it merely authenticates the sender. Please do not include any confidential information, as I intend that these communications with the government all be disclosable public records.***

Sincerely,

Anonymous

**From:** [pmonette-shaw](#)  
**To:** [Ronen, Hillary](#); [Stefani, Catherine \(BOS\)](#); [Mar, Gordon \(BOS\)](#)  
**Cc:** [Yee, Norman \(BOS\)](#); [Fewer, Sandra \(BOS\)](#); [Peskin, Aaron \(BOS\)](#); [Preston, Dean \(BOS\)](#); [Haney, Matt \(BOS\)](#); [Mandelman, Rafael \(BOS\)](#); [Walton, Shamann \(BOS\)](#); [Safai, Ahsha \(BOS\)](#); [Young, Victor \(BOS\)](#); [Calvillo, Angela \(BOS\)](#); [Yu, Angelina \(BOS\)](#); [Fregosi, Ian \(BOS\)](#); [Chelsea.Boillard@sfgov.org](#); [Herzstein, Daniel \(BOS\)](#); [Bennett, Samuel \(BOS\)](#); [Mullan, Andrew \(BOS\)](#); [Falzon, Frankie \(BOS\)](#); [Angulo, Sunny \(BOS\)](#); [Hepner, Lee \(BOS\)](#); [Yan, Calvin \(BOS\)](#); [Quan, Daisy \(BOS\)](#); [Wong, Alan \(BOS\)](#); [Wright, Edward \(BOS\)](#); [Huang, Jenny \(BOS\)](#); [RivamonteMesa, Abigail \(BOS\)](#); [Mcdonald, Courtney \(BOS\)](#); [Mahogany, Honey \(BOS\)](#); [Zou, Han \(BOS\)](#); [Low, Jen \(BOS\)](#); [Maybaum, Erica \(BOS\)](#); [Lee, Ivy \(MYR\)](#); [Vejby, Caitlin \(BOS\)](#); [Smeallie, Kyle \(BOS\)](#); [Temprano, Tom \(BOS\)](#); [Mundy, Erin \(BOS\)](#); [Adkins, Joe \(BOS\)](#); [Goossen, Carolyn \(PDR\)](#); [Monge, Paul \(BOS\)](#); [Beinart, Amy \(BOS\)](#); [Li-D9, Jennifer \(BOS\)](#); [Burch, Percy \(BOS\)](#); [Gallardo, Tracy \(BOS\)](#); [Gee, Natalie \(BOS\)](#); [Evans, Abe \(BOS\)](#); [Sandoval, Suhagey \(BOS\)](#); [Ho, Tim \(BOS\)](#); [Chinchilla, Monica \(BOS\)](#); [Smeallie, Kyle \(BOS\)](#); [Kilgore, Preston \(BOS\)](#); [Yu, Avery \(BOS\)](#); [Calvillo, Angela \(BOS\)](#); [Young, Victor \(BOS\)](#)  
**Subject:** Rules Committee Testimony, January 11, 2021 Agenda Item #2: Supporting Re-Appointment of Bruce Wolfe to Sunshine Ordinance Task Force (SOTF)  
**Date:** Sunday, January 10, 2021 3:50:45 PM

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

## Patrick Monette-Shaw

975 Sutter Street, Apt. 6  
San Francisco, CA 94109  
Phone: (415) 292-6969 • e-mail:  
[pmonette-shaw@earthlink.net](mailto:pmonette-shaw@earthlink.net)

January 10, 2021

Rules Committee

San Francisco Board of Supervisors

The Honorable Hillary Ronen, Supervisor, San Francisco Board of Supervisors, Chair, Rules Committee

The Honorable Catherine Stefani, Supervisor, San Francisco Board of Supervisors, Member, Rules Committee

The Honorable Gordon Mar, Supervisor, San Francisco Board of Supervisors, Member, Rules Committee

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

**Re: Agenda Item #2: Supporting Re-Appointment of Bruce Wolfe to Sunshine Ordinance Task Force (SOTF)**

Dear Chair Ronen and Rules Committee Members,

I am submitting testimony supporting re-appointment of Bruce Wolfe to the SOTF.

Across the years, Mr. Wolfe may not have always voted in my favor on Sunshine complaints I have filed. Nonetheless, he has always been fair and thoughtful in his deliberations on my Sunshine complaints and those filed by others.

He has served admirably as Chair of the Task Force, and is extremely knowledgeable about the Sunshine Ordinance, the CPRA, and open government issues in general.

I strongly support his re-appointment to the SOTF, and urge the Rules Committee to forward a favorable recommendation to the full Board of Supervisors to reappoint Bruce to the Task Force.

Respectfully submitted,

**Patrick Monette-Shaw**

*Columnist/Reporter*

*Westside Observer* Newspaper

cc: The Honorable Norman Yee, Supervisor, President of the Board of Supervisors

The Honorable Sandra Lee Fewer, Supervisor, District 1

The Honorable Aaron Peskin, Supervisor, District 3

The Honorable Dean Preston, Supervisor, District 5

The Honorable Matt Haney, Supervisor, District 6

The Honorable Rafael Mandelman, Supervisor, District 8

The Honorable Shamann Walton, Supervisor, District 10

The Honorable Ahsha Safai, Supervisor, District 11

Angela Calvillo, Clerk of the Board

Victor Young, Clerk of the Rules Committee

Carolyn Goossen, Legislative Aide to Supervisor Hillary Ronen

Lee Hepner, Legislative Aide to Supervisor Aaron Peskin

**From:** [Richard Knee](#)  
**To:** [Peskin, Aaron \(BOS\)](#); [Mandelman, Rafael \(BOS\)](#); [Chan, Connie \(BOS\)](#)  
**Cc:** [Young, Victor \(BOS\)](#); [jaya.padmanabhan@gmail.com](mailto:jaya.padmanabhan@gmail.com); [Peskin, Aaron \(BOS\)](#); [Hepner, Lee \(BOS\)](#); [Wolfe Bruce](#); [Chris Hyland](#)  
**Subject:** Sunshine Ordinance Task Force appointments  
**Date:** Sunday, January 10, 2021 11:02:59 PM  
**Importance:** High

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Board of Supervisors Rules Committee  
Honorable Aaron Peskin, Chair  
Honorable Rafael Mandelman  
Honorable Connie Chan

Re: Candidacies of Jaya Padmanabhan, Chris Hyland and Bruce Wolfe for Sunshine Ordinance Task Force seats: Strongly support

During a lengthy interview with the Freedom of Information Committee of the Society of Professional Journalists' Northern California Chapter ("SPJ NorCal"), of which I am a member, Jaya Padmanabhan impressed me as someone knowledgeable on sunshine law, passionate about government transparency, and of pleasant demeanor and temperament well suited for dealing with the tension that at times surfaces during Task Force proceedings. Moreover, filling the seat for which she is nominated is extremely important, given the Task Force's depleted membership.

Supervisor Peskin, you and your legislative aide Lee Hepner deserve thanks for leading the way in enabling SPJ NorCal to succeed New America Media as nominator for the seat for which Ms. Padmanabhan is applying.

In addition, I am pleased to endorse Chris Hyland and Bruce Wolfe for re-appointment to the Task Force. Their tenures on the Task Force overlapped mine, and they have served in excellent fashion.

Sincerely,  
Richard Knee  
Former Sunshine Ordinance Task Force member and chair

Cc: Victor Young, Clerk of the Rules Committee; Jaya Padmanabhan; Chris Hyland; Bruce Wolfe; Lee Hepner  
Bcc: Other interested persons



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**From:** [Richard Knee](#)  
**To:** [Ronen, Hillary](#); [Stefani, Catherine \(BOS\)](#); [Mar, Gordon \(BOS\)](#)  
**Cc:** [Young, Victor \(BOS\)](#); [jaya.padmanabhan@gmail.com](mailto:jaya.padmanabhan@gmail.com); [Peskin, Aaron \(BOS\)](#); [Hepner, Lee \(BOS\)](#); [Wolfe Bruce](#); [Chris Hyland](#)  
**Subject:** Sunshine Ordinance Task Force appointments  
**Date:** Friday, January 8, 2021 12:33:20 AM  
**Importance:** High

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Board of Supervisors Rules Committee  
Honorable Hillary Ronen, Chair  
Honorable Catherine Stefani  
Honorable Gordon Mar

Re: Candidacies of Jaya Padmanabhan, Chris Hyland and Bruce Wolfe for Sunshine Ordinance Task Force seats: Strongly support

During a lengthy interview with the Freedom of Information Committee of the Society of Professional Journalists' Northern California Chapter ("SPJ NorCal"), of which I am a member, Jaya Padmanabhan impressed me as someone knowledgeable on sunshine law, passionate about government transparency, and of pleasant demeanor and temperament well suited for dealing with the tension that at times surfaces during Task Force proceedings. Moreover, filling the seat for which she is nominated is extremely important, given the Task Force's depleted membership.

Also, Supervisor Aaron Peskin and his legislative aide Lee Hepner deserve thanks for leading the way in enabling SPJ NorCal to succeed New America Media as nominator for the seat for which Ms. Padmanabhan is applying.

In addition, I am pleased to endorse Chris Hyland and Bruce Wolfe for re-appointment to the Task Force. Their tenures on the Task Force overlapped mine, and they have served in excellent fashion.

Sincerely,  
Richard Knee  
Former Sunshine Ordinance Task Force member and chair

Cc: Victor Young, Clerk of the Rules Committee; Jaya Padmanabhan; Chris Hyland; Bruce Wolfe; Supervisor Aaron Peskin; Lee Hepner  
Bcc: Other interested persons



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**From:** [Michele Godwin](#)  
**To:** [Young, Victor \(BOS\)](#)  
**Subject:** Sunshine Task Force and Laurie Jones Neighbors  
**Date:** Monday, January 11, 2021 12:08:05 PM

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Hello.

I am a San Francisco resident who is excited to endorse Laurie Jones Neighbors to seat 8 of the Sunshine Task Force.

I know Laurie through her work with the non profit Students Rising Above. I know her to be deeply and passionately involved in governance, with a particular focus on underserved communities. She is smart, committed, and understands the need for marginalized communities to have a voice.

Thank you,  
Michele Godwin

--

Michele Godwin  
(she/her/hers)

cellular telephone number: 415 378 2107

**From:** [Leuwam Tesfai](#)  
**To:** [Young, Victor \(BOS\)](#)  
**Subject:** Support for Laurie Jones Neighbors Appointment to Sunshine Ordinance Task Force  
**Date:** Thursday, January 14, 2021 8:04:31 AM

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

Dear Rules Committee Members and Mr. Young,

I am writing to express my support for the appointment of Laurie Jones Neighbors to the Sunshine Ordinance Task Force (SOTF)- seat 8-11. Through her professional work, Ms. Jones Neighbors has developed an expertise in supporting lay people better engage with government bodies, particular those in disadvantaged communities, making her an excellent candidate for the SOTF.

As a former SOTF member (2016-2020) I have seen the benefit of having Task Force members with capacity building skills to help petitioners understand how the ordinance works and to problem solve. In addition, the SOTF is lacking in both gender and racial diversity. Though the SOTF has 11 seats, for the four years that I served we never had more than 3 women serving. This would be an opportunity for the Rules Committee to appoint a woman who is a qualified leader.

Kindly,  
Leuwam Tesfai

## **Patrick Monette-Shaw**

975 Sutter Street, Apt. 6  
San Francisco, CA 94109  
Phone: (415) 292-6969 • e-mail: [pmonette-shaw@earthlink.net](mailto:pmonette-shaw@earthlink.net)

January 7, 2021

Rules Committee

San Francisco Board of Supervisors

The Honorable Hillary Ronen, Supervisor, San Francisco Board of Supervisors, Chair, Rules Committee  
The Honorable Catherine Stefani, Supervisor, San Francisco Board of Supervisors, Member, Rules Committee  
The Honorable Gordon Mar, Supervisor, San Francisco Board of Supervisors, Member, Rules Committee  
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place  
San Francisco, CA 94102

Re: **Agenda Item #2: Opposition to Re-Appointment of David Pilpel to Sunshine Ordinance Task Force (SOTF)**

Dear Chair Ronen and Rules Committee Members,

I am submitting testimony opposing any re-appointment of David Pilpel to the SOTF.

Attached, please find:

- A. Testimony I submitted to the Rules Committee opposing Mr. Pilpel's application for appointment to SOTF on April 27, 2016 when then-Supervisor Katy Tang was Chairperson of the Rules Committee, and
- B. Testimony submitted to the Rules Committee by labor leader Claire Zvanski on April 26, 2016 opposing Mr. Pilpel's application for appointment to SOTF in 2016; Ms. Zvanski's letter is a public record in the background files of the Rules Committee and her testimony was more than likely posted on-line in the public correspondence file for the Rules Committee's hearing on Pilpel's application in 2016.

Both my testimony in April 2016 and Ms. Zvanski's testimony in April 2016 are part and parcel of the historical record on why Mr. Pilpel should never be re-appointed to SOTF — not now, and not ever.

In summary, the reasons the current Rules Committee should not even recommend to the full Board of Supervisor Pilpel for appointment to SOTF include:

- 1. Although the Rules Committee in 2016 forwarded a recommendation to the full Board of Supervisors to potentially consider Pilpel for re-appointment to the SOTF, the full Board had the wisdom not to do so, and Mr. Pilpel was **not** re-appointed to SOTF when his term expired in 2016.
- 2. Pilpel's prior disruptive behavior as a member of two policy bodies — the SFMTA's *Citizens Advisory Council* (CAC) and the PUC's CAC — prevented his being re-appointed to either policy body. Mr. Pilpel's application dated January 6, 2021 cited his service on those two policy bodies in the "Civic Activities" section of his application, but he failed to note to this Rules Committee that he was **not** re-appointed to either policy body.

I learned the weekend of April 24, 2016 by reliable report that former Supervisor Katy Tang — the then-chairperson of the Rules Committee — was responsible for, or instrumental in, blocking David Pilpel's re-appointment to both the SFMTA Citizen's Advisory Council (CAC) and to the SF PUC's Citizen's Advisory Committee (CAC) due to many complaints from both CAC members and SFMTA staff.

- 3. Public testimony submitted in April 2016 (see attached) documented Pilpel's previous history of rifling through the desks of SFMTA employees at MUNI's headquarters after hours. He did so not as a once or twice occurrence, but as a regular practice. By report, he continued to snoop around City offices for a number of years.
- 4. Pilpel has refused to recuse himself from hearing SOTF complaints after the complainants noted his conflict of interest, or perceived conflicts of interest.



January 7, 2021

**Agenda Item #2: Opposition to Re-Appointment of David Pilpel to Sunshine Ordinance Task Force**

Page 2

5. Pilpel's attendance record at 15 SOTF meetings held between October 2013 and August 2014 when he was appointed on the SOTF was pathetic; he missed four — 26.7% — of those 15 meetings.
6. Pilpel was observed engaging in *ex parte* communications with City department employees named as respondents in Sunshine complaints filed with SOTF, jeopardizing the outcome of proceedings for the complainants.
7. Two complaints were filed with the Ethics Commission for violations of the Statements of Incompatible Activities applicable to Board of Supervisors and SOTF members.
8. Pilpel withheld and misrepresented key information regarding due process issues from the Rules Committee in 2014 when the 2014 Rules Committee was considering re-appointing him to SOTF in 2014.
9. By report, Pilpel also exhibited on-going disruptive behavior when he served on the Redistricting Task Force, but of course, he also didn't mention that in his January 6, 2021 application for re-appointment to the SOTF.
10. On April 6, 2016, an hour-and-a-half into a Sunshine Task Force meeting, Pilpel suddenly requested being recused from hearing a complaint filed by Ray Hartz, Jr. involving the Ethics Commission. The MP3 audio of that meeting shows that then-Task Force Member Mark Rumold — a lawyer who held a Task Force seat reserved for nominations from the Society of Professional Journalists — noted that the Task Force may potentially want to eventually discuss whether Pilpel had abused his duties as a member of the Task Force often.

The now current Rules Committee must not make the same mistake of forwarding Pilpel's name to the full Board of Supervisors for consideration of re-appointment to the SOTF.

This time, on January 11, 2011 the Rules Committee should forward an explicit recommendation to the full Board of Supervisors clearly rejecting appointing Mr. Pilpel and specifically declining to submit his name for any further consideration by the full Board of Supervisors.

As I noted in April 2016, leopards rarely change their spots and tigers rarely change their stripes. Both animals rarely change their behavior. So, too, with David Pilpel.

It's time to stop considering him for appointment to any Board or Commission in City government, since he's far too disruptive to transparency and accountability.

Respectfully submitted,

**Patrick Monette-Shaw**

*Columnist/Reporter*

*Westside Observer* Newspaper

## **Patrick Monette-Shaw**

---

975 Sutter Street, Apt. 6  
San Francisco, CA 94109  
Phone: (415) 292-6969 • e-mail: [pmonette-shaw@earthlink.net](mailto:pmonette-shaw@earthlink.net)

April 27, 2016

### **Rules Committee**

#### **San Francisco Board of Supervisors**

The Honorable Katy Tang, Supervisor, San Francisco Board of Supervisors, Chair, Rules Committee

The Honorable Eric Mar, Supervisor, San Francisco Board of Supervisors, Member, Rules Committee

The Honorable Malia Cohen, Supervisor, San Francisco Board of Supervisors, Member, Rules Committee

1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place

San Francisco, CA 94102

Re: **Opposition to Re-Appointment of David Pilpel to Sunshine Ordinance Task Force**

Dear Rules Committee Members,

Please do not approve recommending applicant David Pilpel to another term on the SOTF for the following reasons.

#### **Prior Disruptive Behavior Prevented His Re-Appointment to Two CAC's**

Mr. Pilpel's behavior as a member of other policy bodies has been totally disruptive.

Despite Pilpel's claim on his application that he has served on the SFMTA CAC, SFPUUC CAC, and on the Redistricting Task Force, he was not re-appointed to the MTA CAC in 2009 or earlier, reportedly due to his disruptive behavior and badgering of MTA CAC members and MTA staff. Similarly, within approximately the past year Pilpel was not re-appointed to the PUC CAC for the largely the same reason, as Supervisor Tang must be aware. And by report, Pilpel was extremely disruptive when he served on the Redistricting Task Force.

#### **Poor Attendance Record**

Between October 2, 2013 and August 24, 2014, the SOTF held 15 meetings. Pilpel was absent four times — 26.7% — of those 14 meetings.

#### **Refusal to Recuse Himself vs. Recusal From Hearing Complaints**

- On May 5, 2015, a Sunshine complaint filed by Brian Browne against the SF PUC was calendared for a hearing before the Sunshine Task Force. Browne — aware that Pilpel was then serving on the PUC's CAC — requested that Pilpel recuse himself from hearing Browne's complaint due to a potential conflict of interest. Pilpel refused, and announced that although he was a member of the PUC's CAC, he should NOT have to recuse himself. Browne's complaint was continued to a future meeting of the Task Force.
- On April 6, 2016, an hour-and-a-half into the Sunshine Task Force's meeting, Pilpel suddenly requested being recused from hearing a complaint filed by Ray Hartz, Jr. involving the Ethics Commission. Pilpel admitted he had attended the Ethics Commission's January 25 meeting and had testified several times that the Commission was making a mistake because he felt an item on the Ethics Commission's agenda "was not framed properly for public discussion." Pilpel felt the Ethics Commission was not conducting themselves appropriately. Subsequently Hartz filed a Sunshine complaint concerning the Ethics Commission's January 25 meeting.

Pilpel claimed he had been speaking as a "private citizen" but it was obvious he was providing advice to the Ethics Commission in his role as a member of the Sunshine Task Force.

Hartz's complaint that was supposed to be heard on April 6 involved the new Executive Director of Ethics, LeeAnn Pelham. The draft minutes of the Task Force's April 6 minutes only reported that Pilpel wanted to avoid the appearance of bias.

Pilpel requested to be recused from hearing the matter. The MP3 audio file of the April 6 Task Force meeting shows that Pilpel stated during the meeting that “my view is that I have either bias, or the appearance thereof” [for having spoken during the Ethics Commission’s meeting on January 25]. But there should have been no need for him to recuse himself if he had, in fact, been speaking as a private citizen. And there should have been no question about whether Pilpel was engaging in “bias” if he had been speaking as a member of the public.

The MP3 audio also shows that Task Force Member Mark Rumold — a lawyer who holds a Task Force seat reserved for nominations from the Society of Professional Journalists — noted that potentially the Task Force may want to eventually discuss whether Pilpel has abused his duties as a member of the Task Force often, and that, if so, the Task Force we could take some action later.

There doesn’t seem to be much rhyme or reason as to when Pilpel decides whether or not to request being recused from hearing items on the agenda.

### **Ex Parte Communications**

On May 5, 2015 following the hearing on Brian Browne’s Sunshine complainant, Pilpel raced up to the SFPUC representative who had attended the hearing and who was enroute to the elevator, and began speaking with the PUC rep. Browne reportedly said “Mr. Pilpel, I hope you are not talking to her about my case.” It’s one of many examples — not an isolated occurrence — of Pilpel having sidebar — *ex parte* — conversations with respondents regarding Sunshine complaints prior to hearing the merits of a complainant’s formal complaint.

### **Undermining Sunshine Complainants**

Also in 2015, Pilpel submitted a letter to the Ethics Commission prior to an Ethics Commission hearing involving a Sunshine complaint Paula Datesch had filed against the Art Commission that the Task Force had referred to the Ethics for enforcement. Pilpel intentionally interfered with the Ethics Commission’s deliberations by offering his so-called “personal opinion” on a matter that the Task Force had already ruled on and had concluded. Pilpel has no compulsion about trying to overturn Sunshine Task Force decisions that he doesn’t agree with, and is brazen enough to show up at Ethics hearings to intentionally undercut official Orders of Determination the Task Force had issued.

It is thought Pilpel has interfered with other concluded Orders of Determination issued by the Task Force after-the-fact, and this is not an isolated incident.

### **Two Ethics Complaints Involving Violations of the Statement of Incompatible Activities Applicable to the Board of Supervisors and SOTF Members**

In 2014 I filed two Ethics complaints against Mr. Pilpel alleging that he had violated the SIA applicable to SOTF members. In the first Ethics complaint, I noted Pilpel had identified himself during public comment at a meeting of the Ethics Commission as “David Pilpel, Member of SOTF,” rather than as a member of the public, as if he were authorized to speak on behalf of the full Task Force.

After I filed my complaints, Pilpel became somewhat more careful to claim he addresses policy bodies as a member of the public, although he has been reported by other observers as having continued to identify himself as a member of SOTF when addressing other policy bodies.

Mr. Pilpel had **not** sought an Advance Written Determination that testifying to the Ethics Commission about a Sunshine Complaint adjudicated and finalized by the full Task Force is **not** incompatible with his official duties.

In my second Ethics complaint, the underlying issue was not whether Mr. Pilpel is permitted to speak before other policy bodies on issues **outside** the scope of his duties as a member of the Sunshine Task Force (for example speaking during a meeting of a Commission considering a land use matter that might affect Mr. Pilpel’s neighborhood). Instead, the underlying issue was whether Pilpel is permitted to speak to another policy body on issues that are **inside** the scope of his duties as a Sunshine Task Force member (i.e., speaking about a matter inside the scope of his duties, **after** the full Task Force had concluded the matter and referred it to the Ethics Commission for enforcement).

April 27, 2016

**Opposition to Re-Appointment of David Pilpel to Sunshine Ordinance Task Force**

Page 3

When Mr. Pilpel voluntarily became a member of the Task Force, he was automatically bound under the governing SIA to restrict his testimony on matters falling *inside* the scope of his duties before other bodies. As a member of the Task Force, he has a duty to support and abide by decisions reached by a majority of Task Force members.

Pilpel's *ex parte* communications with other Policy Bodies and his testimony during other Policy Body meetings are a ruse when he claims to be speaking as a private citizen. His claims are a sham, when not a pretense or pretext, since it is clear he is trying to provide testimony in his role as a member of the Task Force, not so much as a member of the public.

His ruse needs to stop, and the Rules Committee can do so by refusing to advance him for consideration for re-appointment to the Task Force. Please refuse to support him application; it's long overdue that you dump him off of SOTF.

**Pilpel Withheld Key Information from Rules Committee in May 2014**

To the extent that Pilpel sought to sway the Rules Committee into re-appointing him to the Sunshine Task Force on May 15, 2014 by blabbing his wild assertion that members of the SOTF didn't understand where "due process attaches," he may have gamed re-appointment to the Task Force by withholding informing Supervisors Yee and Tang on May 15 that just 17 days earlier when Pilpel had raised the "due process" issue during the Sunshine complaint hearing involving Phil Ginsburg before the Ethics Commission, Deputy City Attorney Josh White who advises the Ethics Commission, had to interject and inform Ethics Commissioners that "due process" didn't apply.

It is completely egregious that Pilpel — who must have fully understood DCA White's clear City Attorney advice — withheld DCA White's advice from Tang and Yee in 2014, and repeated the "due process" misinformation that White had shot down, during his testimony seeking re-appointment to the Task Force. Indeed, it could be argued that by ignoring DCA White's "City Attorney opinion," and repeating due process misinformation, Pilpel had failed Katy Tang's "litmus test" of undying fealty to City Attorney "advice" as a condition of appointment to the Task Force.

**Conclusion**

The Rules Committee should not make the same mistake twice by referring Mr. Pilpel for re-appointment to the Task Force again, after he duped you in May 2014.

After all, leopards rarely change their spots, and tigers rarely change their stripes. Both animals rarely change their behavior. So, too, with David Pilpel. It's time to get rid of him as being too disruptive.

Respectfully submitted,

**Patrick Monette-Shaw**

*Columnist/Reporter*

*Westside Observer Newspaper*

Below is the testimony Claire Zvanski submitted on April 26, 2016 opposing the appointment of David Pilpel to the Sunshine Ordinance Task Force. Zvanski's letter is a public record that was posted on-line to the Rules Committee in April 2016.

---

**Evans, Derek**

---

**From:** Tang, Katy (BOS)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 26, 2016 11:46 AM  
**To:** Evans, Derek  
**Subject:** FW: Rules Committee appointment consideration

**For the clerk's records**

**From:** claire zvanski [mailto:czvanski@hotmail.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 26, 2016 3:51 AM  
**To:** Mar, Eric (BOS) <eric.mar@sfgov.org>; Cohen, Malia (BOS) <malia.cohen@sfgov.org>; Tang, Katy (BOS) <katy.tang@sfgov.org>  
**Subject:** Rules Committee appointment consideration

Dear Supervisors:

It is my understanding that the Rules Committee will be considering appointments to the Sunshine Task Force this Thursday, April 28. It is also my understanding that David Pilpel has submitted his application for reappointment to that task force.

I have known David for more than 25 years. He was a teenager when I used to have to physically extract him from offices at MUNI headquarters (on Presidio at Geary in those days). He was regularly rifling through desks of managers and other employees and also going through our file cabinets for "information" on various projects and issues. He would often come in after hours when those managers would have gone home for the day. This was not a once or twice occurrence. It was a regular practice for a very long time. He was reported, but he continued to do this as long as the doors of the building were not locked. Later, security measures were taken and he could not easily access our building after hours. So, he would come in and "visit" with various managers at the end of the day but not leave the building at closing.

Mr. Pilpel has continued to probe/snoop into City business and City offices over the years. As a retired City employee with nearly 40 years of service behind me, I found and continue to find Mr. Pilpel's methods despicable and his motives questionable. While I support transparency and the public's right to know, I also understand the need for files and work products to remain protected. There is a time and place for everything.

All this is to say that I don't believe Mr. Pilpel is appropriate for reappointment to the Sunshine Task Force. Colleagues of mine have told me of his ongoing unorthodox methods in seeking information and also his harassment of both City employees and elected/appointed individuals. These are unprofessional methods and behaviors that should not be rewarded by appointment to an official City body, especially the Sunshine Task Force.

Please reject the reappointment of David Pilpel to the Sunshine Task Force.

Thank you very much for your consideration of this request.

Claire Zvanski

(37.5 years retired career public service with CCSF; 26 years on HSS board)

**From:** [Anonymous](#)  
**To:** [Young, Victor \(BOS\)](#)  
**Subject:** A Slate of SOTF Recommendations  
**Date:** Wednesday, January 20, 2021 5:32:10 AM  
**Attachments:** [signature.asc](#)

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Obviously, I am a pro-transparency advocate, so I'll give my pro-transparency recommendations for your consideration after now having a chance to do research on the candidates. The following analysis assumes that recently recommended Seat 4 Padmanaban will be successfully approved by the Board.

At the moment, the 4 non-expired SOTF seats have:

- 3 women and 1 man, and
- 3 new members (Dean Schmidt - attorney, Jennifer Wong - technologist, Jaya Padmanaban - journalist) and 1 member with experience (Lila LaHood - journalist/publisher).

If gender parity and an expertise/freshness balance is a goal, you can recommend 4 men and 2 women, and 3 continuing and 3 new members.

This would give 5 men, 5 women, 4 experienced, and 6 new members, in total. (Seat 3 remains unfilled)

You can also add both a City employee and a member of the public who has requested records before - each may be risky on their own, but together add a diverse perspective.

On that basis, I recommend:

1. Appointing new members:
  - Laurie **Jones Neighbors** (re: helping bridge the digital divide and bring public access to underserved communities)
  - ADA Ryan **Khojasteh** (City employee perspective, young person, and attorney)
  - Kai **Forsley** (records requesters' perspective, Civil grand jury investigative experience, librarian)
2. Reappointing Chris **Hyland**, Bruce **Wolfe**, and Matt **Yankee**. They have a deep understanding of the policy and technology issues from their own work and past cases, and all have years of public service. Furthermore, at least one appointee (Wolfe) must have a disability. (Disclosure: all 3 have obviously voted for and against various cases I have brought before them)
3. Seeking legal advice about the effect, if any, of appointing Khojasteh.

Finally, I did not initially understand the vocal (and written) outcry at the first hearing against Mr. Pilpel (I wasn't around back before 2016). I have since researched his prior actions not only on this Task Force but also at other City public bodies. **SOTF members must not be permitted to both be a third-party neutral in a public hearing at SOTF and also be an advocate defending a party on the same issue before a different tribunal like the Ethics Commission when their position loses at SOTF.** For example, would members of your Board vote on a CEQA appeals hearing, and then, if the member is in the minority losing position, now go to Court and be a party's advocate? If a three-judge Federal appeals panel hears a case and a judge loses in a 2-to-1 vote does the judge in the minority now go the Supreme Court to advocate against their peers? Of course not. SOTF rulings are enforceable

at Superior Court, but actions like Pilpel's create the appearance of impropriety and conflict of interest that may invalidate those rulings.

As I've previously described, apart from Mr. Pilpel's prior inappropriate prior actions as a City official, his policy positions would create lawsuits against the City. Contrary to Mr. Pilpel's beliefs, the City can neither discriminate against anonymous meeting attendees/requesters nor subjectively determine which requests or meetings are more important vs less important. Around 5-6 anonymous voices (including me) are present at SOTF, and all of us would have to sue the City instead - that means the City would owe attorneys fees and court costs if we win. At least for me, I have a track record of winning public records cases, and as long as they go through SOTF without requiring Court intervention, the City owes me no money.

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Sincerely,

Anonymous