



Re: Rules Committee Agenda Item 4 - The Harvey Milk LGBTQ Democratic Club Opposes the Appointment of Christina Dikas to the Historic Preservation Committee

Mayor Breed and Rules Committee Chair Peskin, Vice Chair Mandelman and Supervisor Chan:

The Harvey Milk LGBTQ Democratic Club Political Action Committee opposes the appointment of Christina Dikas to the San Francisco Historic Preservation Committee, Item 4 on the April 4, 2021 Rules Committee Agenda.

On a body whose work frequently calls for the lived experience and historical reference points of the LGBTQ community, Ms. Dikas would be the fourth straight appointee to the Historic Preservation Committee following the departure of its two sole LGBTQ representatives.

The editorial board of the Bay Area Reporter recently wrote that “the lack of LGBTQ representation on the Historic Preservation Commission comes as numerous queer historic issues are expected to go before the advisory panel in the coming months, from landmarking of LGBTQ historical sites to designating queer-owned legacy businesses.”¹ We agree.

In light of the important role the Commission plays in recognizing and memorializing our community’s history, having no LGBTQ representation on this body is unacceptable. As the organization tasked with upholding the political legacy of the first openly gay person elected to public office in California, it is our responsibility to call out politicians who claim to be our allies, marching alongside us in corporate sponsored Pride parades, only to deny us a seat at the table.

In the same breadth, we emphasize that LGBTQ representation is not enough if that LGBTQ representative has not demonstrated a commitment to the work of elevating the Citywide Historic Context Statement for LGBTQ History in San Francisco.² There are no shortage of LGBTQ historians in San Francisco with the expertise, qualification and availability to serve in this capacity, and we urge you to appoint someone to this seat who will honor the City’s investment in the preservation of queer space and queer heritage in San Francisco. We would be happy to work with you to identify appropriate candidates for this position.

It is disappointing that we have to write this letter, and it is disappointing that the Mayor has yet to rescind this nomination a month after the only LGBTQ member of the Board of Supervisors called on her to do so.³ We call on the Mayor to rescind their nomination of Ms. Dikas before the Board of Supervisors is called upon to reject that nomination.

Sincerely,

The Political Action Committee & Executive Board of the Harvey Milk LGBTQ Democratic Club

¹ <https://www.ebar.com/news/news//302842>

² <https://sfplanning.org/project/lgbtq-historic-context-statement#about>

³ https://www.ebar.com/news/latest_news//302664