August 9, 2016

Barbara Carr, Ballot Simplification Committee
Department of Elections
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, Room 48
San Francisco, CA 94102

Ms. Carr:

My staff has submitted to you some additional language for consideration for the final Housing & Development Commission ballot digest.

I apologize that I was unable to stay for the entirety of the committee meeting yesterday, but I thank the committee members for their work to simplify the measure. It's a difficult job, and I appreciate the thought that went into the process.

I am still concerned that there are some factual inaccuracies that merit correction in the digest, particularly under "The Way It Is Now" in the last bullet. As staff outlined yesterday, there is currently no adopted city policy or strategy with respect to housing and community development in San Francisco. This was one of the reasons that the City Attorney included this specific provision in the Charter Amendment, and MOHCD and OEWD both agreed during the drafting process that it would be an important requirement to mandate in this Charter Amendment.

In addition, I have serious concerns with the language regarding MOHCD or OEWD adhering to competitive bid processes. I have offered an alternative for your consideration, which you should have received before noon electronically.

Finally, I think that the core function of the proposed Commission is extremely important to distinguish in the digest – and that is to ensure there is transparency, accountability and adherence to our city's Brown Act and Sunshine Ordinance. I respectively ask that you include language referencing this fact in the digest.

Please let me know if there are any questions, I am happy to answer any that arise. Thank you for your consideration.

Best,

Aaron Peskin
District 3 Supervisor
415.554.7450