

San Francisco Democratic County Central Committee

455 Golden Gate Avenue
San Francisco, California
Milton Marks Auditorium
Wednesday, May 27, 2015
7:00 p.m.

Regular Meeting Minutes

1. Call to Order at 7:11 pm and Roll Call

Chair: Mary Jung. Members: Kat Anderson, Joshua Arce, David Campos, Petra DeJesus, Matt Dorsey, Bevan Dufty, Kelly Dwyer, Bill Fazio, Tom Hsieh, Hene Kelly (arrived 7:26 pm), Meagan Levitan (arrived 8:14 pm), Rafael Mandelman (arrived 7:31 pm), Eric Mar (arrived 7:32 pm and tendered his proxy to Kelly Dwyer at 10:15 pm), Trevor McNeil (arrived 8:30 pm), Leah Pimentel, Rebecca Prozan, Alix Rosenthal (left at 9:14 pm and tendered her proxy to Matt Dorsey), Arlo Hale Smith, Francis Tsang, and Scott Wiener (arrived 7:44 pm). Ex-Officio Members: U.S. Senator Dianne Feinstein (proxy George Broder arrived 7:20 pm); Attorney General Kamala Harris (proxy Matthew Rothschild); Board of Equalization Member Fiona Ma (proxy Cally Wong); State Senator Mark Leno (proxy Keith Baraka); Assemblymember Phil Ting (proxy Jason Wong); and Assemblymember David Chiu (proxy Jen Kwart).

Excused, with Proxy: Zoe Dunning (Leah Pimentel carried proxy),

Excused: Malia Cohen (travelling), Carole Migden (travelling),
Congresswoman Jackie Speier (conflicting schedule)

Absent: House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi

2. Approval of Meeting Agenda

(Smith/Anderson) M/S/C to approve.

3. Approval of Meeting Minutes

Approval of the minutes of the DCCC's Regular Meetings of April 22, 2015 (minutes attached). (Smith/Rosenthal) Changes suggested by Bruce Agid to his remarks.

M/S/C to approve with changes by acclamation.

4. Reports

- a) **Chair** (Jung). Fundraiser on June 25 at Marriott Marquis with Lt. Gov. Gavin Newsom. It is important that we meet the goal of our entire year's budget, including the amount of federal money raised. Federal money was explained as contributions from individuals, from federal candidate campaigns, and federal PACs. Thank you to Ally for piloting our new voter registration program. Chair Jung thanked the members that have volunteered to be on the committee and made phone calls.
- b) **Voter Registration** (McNeil). Report given by Executive Director Medina.
- c) **Club Chartering** (Pimentel). Clubs to be chartered included Alice B. Toklas LGBT Democratic Club, Noe Valley Democratic Club, Potrero Hill Democratic Club, and Brownie Mary Democratic Club.

(Pimentel/Prozan) M/S/C to approve by acclamation. Proxy for Senator Feinstein abstained.

- d) **Finance** (Dunning). Report provided by Jung in Chair's report.
- e) **Treasurer** (Hsieh). As end of April, over \$110,000 – primarily in State account. Need to build up our Federal account.
- f) **Executive Director** (Medina) Welcomed our "Dem-terns," our Sue Bierman interns. This is their first day and more are being accepted into program. Last year, over 2,500 were registered, spearheaded by Naeemah who is with us again this year.
- g) **CDP Region 6 Update** (Kelly). No report

5. **Early endorsement of City Attorney, District Attorney and Treasurer for the November 2015 election.** (Mandelman) (Hsieh/Pimentel) to open the endorsement process.

(Harris/Hsieh) M/S/C to early endorse each of the three.

- a) **City Attorney Dennis Herrera.**
- b) **District Attorney George Gascón.**
- c) **Treasurer José Cisneros.**

Member Campos re-stated his earlier objection about early endorsements, but since the party early endorsed the Mayor, it is only fair to early endorse the City Attorney, the District Attorney and the Treasurer.

Member Leno's proxy Baraka relayed that the State Senator wonders "what is the rush?" It is a disservice to our party to close the process or the debate before the deadline. This is not to speak against the candidates. There will be a "no" vote for the early endorsement process.

Member Hsieh stated he is proud that we early endorsed the Mayor last month. There are many good reasons to endorse early. It is true that early endorsements create an uncomfortable situation for some, but we are working well within our policies and procedures. These candidates have consistently upheld the goals of the Democratic Party. Other candidates are welcome to come before us and make their case. I am proud to cast my first vote for these men tonight.

Member Kelly stated she voted against the early endorsement of the Mayor and am troubled to be voting on each of the candidates tonight. Other candidates should have the same chance as they have tonight. She asked about the status of the Party questionnaires and asked the candidates to each commit to filling them out once they are available.

Member DeJesus disagrees with the process, but not the candidates – who have done wonderful jobs.

Member Fazio recalled the DCCC has early endorsed on other occasions. These candidates have done a great job and he is satisfied with what they have done.

Member Mandelman stated he has serious reservations on early endorsements and urged this body not to do it last month – but since we early endorsed the Mayor, we should support these candidates.

Chair Jung acknowledged all the candidates in the audience and asked if City Attorney Dennis Herrera, who has not met with the DCCC yet this year, would like to address the members.

City Attorney Herrera started by acknowledging the \$110,000 in the bank and the intern program was impressive. He remembered much leaner days. He has appeared before this body five times. He gave a brief overview of the accomplishments of his office and he promised to deliver his questionnaire.

Chair Jung commented that in 2000, Herrera was the Treasurer of the DCCC and he often lent the party his own money when the bank account got thin – truly putting his money where his mouth was.

District Attorney George Gascon addressed the body, giving a brief overview of the accomplishments of his office, including reforming the office. SF is part of the national conversation of justice reform, SF has been doing this work for five years. He stated he will complete questionnaire and would be honored to receive the endorsement at this meeting or the next.

Proxy George Broder requested to make endorsements individually and reminded the candidates, members, and audience that a vote of endorsement does not imply an individual endorsement of the voting member for the candidate.

Member Kelly stated she objects to early endorsements but will vote on these.

Call the question on early endorsements:

a. City Attorney Dennis Herrera: Rothchild/Smith by acclamation. No from Leno; Abstain from Kelly

b. District Attorney George Gascon: Dorsey/Fazio by acclamation. No from Leno; Abstain from DeJesus, Dufty, Feinstein, Kelly

c. Treasurer Jose Cisneros: Smith/Pimentel by acclamation. No from Leno; Abstain from Kelly

6. Presentation and Q&A with Sheriff Ross Mirkarimi.

Sheriff Mirkarimi provided a preview of what is happening in the Sheriff's Department. He announced Harvard just nominated SF among five departments for innovation (along with City Attorney's office). He noted the jails are under 50% undercrowded and that when realignment came to SF four

years ago, the predictions were that we would be overcrowded. The prison population is around 1200 (capacity 2400) in jails. We were the first to implement Obamacare, so that at booking, inmates receive health insurance. He noted 70% of the inmates come in with a substance abuse problem.

We are working to decrease recidivism. He noted a major milestone, that there are more people in diversion than being incarcerated. It costs @ \$60K /year to be incarcerated. Diversion is a fraction of that cost and is a much better result. It also helps the children of the incarcerated. Studies prove that children of incarcerated adults run into problems with the law. To improve public safety, we should minimize the impact on children of the incarcerated and babies should not be taken from birth mothers that are incarcerated. If the Sheriff's Department and other organizations are more inventive in addressing problems on the street, we could achieve real progress. We also do evictions and are the agency of last resort. When someone is about to be evicted and we observe a need for services, we do a humanitarian "recon," by those who are not in uniform to help those who are elderly, disabled, or suffering families. Statistics on evictions do not reflect what his agency has observed.

Member Smith commented that the late Richard Hongisto did amazing things in the office and Mirkarimi and Hennessey followed in his footsteps.

Member DeJesus praised the Sheriff for the eviction assistance program.

The Sheriff commented that city leadership should unite the Sheriff's Department, the Rent Board, and the Department of Public Health to create a better path.

Member Arce asked if the Sheriff signed the Sustainable Communities pledge about supporting good paying jobs, affordable housing and environmentally friendly projects. Mirkarimi replied it was a no brainer, but it has not been presented to him. He stated he would also fill out a questionnaire.

Member Hsieh asked about an incident involving Sheriff's Department employees contributing to forced fighting by inmates and asked what was learned? Mirkarimi responded that they called in the Federal government and that a criminal investigation is underway. The Deputy has been notified of the intent to terminate him from the Department.

Member Kelly commented that education is the way to ensure people have a chance when they get out. She asked if community college training is in the pipeline? Mirkarimi replied in the affirmative, and noted SF had the first high school in our jail.

Chair Jung announced the endorsement will occur at the August meeting.

7. General Public Comment

Susan Pfeifer Provided an update on Covered California.

Phil Berg of LPSF asked that we support the Mission Moratorium.

Tommi Avicoli Mecca asked that we support the Mission Moratorium.

Patrick Valentino asked that we *not support* the Mission Moratorium.

There were disruptions from the audience as Mr. Valentino was providing public comment. Member Hsieh commented that in past meetings, other Chairs would ask them to behave, or recess or clear the room. Chair Jung stated that we must listen to public comment collegially.

Mark Averell of Grow SF asked that we *not support* the Mission Moratorium.

Aeris Velasco of John O'Connell High School asked that we support the Mission Moratorium.

Jay Cheng, President of Asian Pacific Democratic Club, reported on a Nepal Earthquake Relief fundraiser which raised \$3600. He recognized DCCC members who contributed to the relief efforts and thanked Assemblymembers Ting and Chiu for their support.

Kay Walker of SF Grey Panthers spoke in support of the moratorium.

Michael Theriault of the SF Building Trades Council reported they are neutral on the Moratorium and handed out a letter stating this. (see attachment)

Carlos Gonzalez is for the moratorium.

Jacob Angel of the Military Health Project asked that we *not support* the Mission Moratorium.

Member Dufty stated has never seen him and invited him to meet with him regarding including him in their work at the HOPE Office.

Tyra Fennell asked that we *not support* the Mission Moratorium.

Paul Langley supports the moratorium.

Tony Robles of Senior and Disability Action asked that we support the Mission Moratorium.

Brad Williford asked that we *not support* the Mission Moratorium.

J.J. Panzer of the SF Apartment Association asked that we *not support* the Mission Moratorium.

Ann Fryman asked that we *not support* the Mission Moratorium.

Daniel Christmann of SF BARF asked that we *not support* the Moratorium.

Erick Arguello asked that we support the Mission Moratorium.

Jadma Noronha asked that we support the Mission Moratorium.

Daniel Camp of SF BARF asked that we *not support* the Mission Moratorium.

Rosario Cervantes of D11 and President of Coleman Advocates asked that we support the Mission Moratorium.

Anna Lisa Escobedo of Calle 24 asked that we support the Moratorium.

Tami Bryant asked that we support the Mission Moratorium.

Noveed Safipour from the Peninsula Young Democrats asked that we *not support* the Mission Moratorium.

Dr. Estela Garcia asked that we support the Mission Moratorium.

Katie MacKenzie of GrowSF asked that we *not support* the Moratorium.

Marilyn Murrillo asked that we *not support* the Mission Moratorium.

Brian Basinger of AIDs Housing Alliance SF.

Nathanial Owen of the Harvey Milk Democratic Club asked that we support the Mission Moratorium.

Carmen Simon of the Harvey Milk Democratic Club asked that we support the Mission Moratorium.

Anastasia of SF BARF asked that we *not support* the Mission Moratorium.

(There was a brief announcement the Golden State Warriors won the game.)

Sonja Trauss of SF BARF asked that we not support the Mission Moratorium.

She asked SF BARF members to stand up and many in the audience did.

Ruth Mahaney of Modern Times Bookstore/Calle 24 asked that we support the Mission Moratorium.

Rick Hall of the Potrero Hill Democratic Club asked that we support the Mission Moratorium.

Bruce Agid – VP of South Beach Dis 6 Democratic Club asked that we *not support* the Mission Moratorium.

Amy Beinart of the Bernal Heights Democratic asked that we support the Mission Moratorium.

Wendy Bardsley of Calle 24 asked that we support the Mission Moratorium.

Gus Cano spoke against the moratorium.

Donald Dewsnup asked that we *not support* the Mission Moratorium.

Noemi Sohn of ACCE asked that we support the Mission Moratorium.

Catherine Young with the SF Housing Action Coalition asked - Do not endorse the moratorium today.

Joel Engardio with Progress Democratic Club of SF asked that we *not support* the Mission Moratorium.

Julien Ball, organizer with ACCE, asked that we support the Moratorium.

Tom Temprano of the Harvey Milk Democratic Club asked that we support the Mission Moratorium.

Laura Guzman – Plaza 16 asked that we support the Mission Moratorium.

Ebony Isler – organizer for the Bayview ACCE asked that we support the Mission Moratorium.

Rafael Solari of SF BARF asked that we *not support* the Mission Moratorium.

Mike Ege of SF BARF asked that we *not support* the Mission Moratorium.

Yekaterina Downing asked that we *not support* the Mission Moratorium.

Peter Gallotta of the Harvey Milk Democratic Club asked that we support the Mission Moratorium.

Lou Fischer of GrowSF asked us to vote against the moratorium.

Julissa Hernandez of GrowSF asked that we *not support* the Mission Moratorium.

Ace on the Case asked that we support the Mission Moratorium.

Brett Anderson asked that we support the Mission Moratorium.

Buck Bagot asked that we support the Mission Moratorium.

Laurel Muniz, co-Chair of Bernal Heights Democratic Club asked that we support the Mission Moratorium.

Frank Noto, President of Sunset Democratic Club, asked that we *not support* the Mission Moratorium.

Gabriel Medina, President of the Latino Democratic Club, asked that we support the Mission Moratorium.

Elizabeth deYoung asked that we support the Mission Moratorium.

Laura Clark of GrowSF asked that we *not support* the Mission Moratorium.

Austin Hunter of GrowSF asked that we *not support* the Mission Moratorium.

Edwin Lindo of the Latino Democratic Club asked that we support the Mission Moratorium.

Andy Blue of the Plaza 16 Coalition asked that we support the Moratorium.

Marie Sorenson of Calle 24 asked that we support the Mission Moratorium.

Jeffrey Mishler asked that we *not support* the Mission Moratorium.

Michael Blume asked that we *not support* the Mission Moratorium.

Jose Muniz of Latino Democratic Club asked that we support the Mission Moratorium.

Fernando Marti of Council of Community Housing Organizations asked that we support the Mission Moratorium.

Karen Babbitt asked that we support the Mission Moratorium.
Frank Martine Del Campo – SF Labor Council and SF LCLAA – asked that we support the Mission Moratorium.
Zachary Robles – SFLPC – asked that we support the Mission Moratorium.
Carlos Heredia – CCSF student - asked that we support the Moratorium.
Omar Diab of GrowSF asked that we *not support* the Mission Moratorium.
Giovanni Vassallo of Bay Area Friends of Tibet supports the moratorium.
Katherine Schilslzitter of the Mission Democratic Club asked that we *not support* the Mission Moratorium.
Nancy Rock, President of the Mission Democratic Club, asked that we *not support* the Mission Moratorium.
Mahnani Clay of the Harvey Milk Democratic Club asked that we support the Mission Moratorium.
Guario Silva asked that we support the Mission Moratorium.
John Mendoza of Calle24 asked that we support the Mission Moratorium.
Naomi, a student who supports the moratorium and David Campos.
(Public Comment ended at 1005 p.m.)

8. Update on Resolution: Racial Justice Committee’s Plan for Police Reform.

(Dwyer) Report on the status of possible amendments to the Racial Justice Committee’s Plan for Police Reform, which includes training; annual reviews; assignment directives; independent investigations of police shootings; and new regulations for detaining youth and those with mental disabilities.

Members Dwyer and Kelly met with representatives from the Police Department. Many of the suggestions in the original resolution are already implemented or are underway. A further report will be presented at the next meeting.

9. Resolution: Moratorium on Luxury Development in the Mission (Campos)

Discussion and possible action on resolution to support and urge passage at the Board of Supervisors the Interim Urgency Ordinance placing a temporary moratorium on luxury development in the Mission District while allowing the construction of 100 percent affordable housing.

Member Campos commented that there is a lot of pain and emotion, but that does not mean that we have not rationalized what is being proposed at the Board of Supervisors. Being emotional does not connote that one is not thinking. Even though it seems counterintuitive to respond to a lack of housing by placing a moratorium, time is needed for the City to buy property.

There were 18 parcels that could have been purchased - now there are only 13. We need 2,400 to 3,000 units of affordable housing. How are we going to do that if we lose any of those 13 parcels?

We support reforming the Ellis Act. We went to Sacramento to discuss that. This community is asking for control of its own destiny. I supported Supervisor Wiener's proposal to limit monster homes in his district – he should show me the same respect for my district.

Member Dufty spoke in support of this resolution. The years of 2000 to 2010 were difficult for the Board of Supervisors. This is not a critique of anyone or any organization. He was stunned by development figures in the Mission. The City took opportunities in other areas. We are all responsible for the City's building policies and the unfortunate outcome. The Mission is a community that embraced people during the height of the AIDs epidemic. We need a re-set and everyone needs to think about how to respond.

Member Smith called the question.

Member Wiener asked for consideration to respond. He acknowledged the audience members concern and how housing policy is broken. The City has done a terrible job building affordable housing. We have wonderful community developers and partners, but we are not able to move quickly enough. That is not the only issue – we need overall more housing in SF, not just affordable housing – We can't have one without the other to be successful. We have grown by 100,000 residents and only built about 20,000 units in the last 10 years.

He continued, that this is not just a 45-day Moratorium. If this passes at the BOS, there will be an immediate request to extend this for 2 years. And then, what if other neighborhoods also ask for a Moratorium? Let's be clear about what this is and what this isn't. This is not going to stop a single eviction and it will not make housing any cheaper.

Member Arce discussed the amazing community of his home – the Mission. He validated that there is a crisis in the Mission.

Member DeJesus spoke passionately about the situation.

Member Hsieh thanked member Campos and members of the public. He acknowledged this is a crisis that has been going on for 30 years. His family has been able to live in the City, but many of his friends have had to leave. This is not unique in the Mission – it's in every district. Many projects have been stalled by public pressure and the abuse of land use authority and CEQA. We are now at an acute crisis that is not going to end tomorrow. For the last 30 years, the City needed to build thousands units of housing each year, but was prevented because of the abuse of CEQA and restrictive housing policies. We did not intend for this to happen - this is the law of unintended consequences. We are the Democratic Party and we are supposed to stand for everybody. It is not so simple to say we need to pause so we can re-strategize. The simple reality is that we have to allow for more housing to be built on every level.

To that end, he proposed amending the resolution to the following:

Amendment language

Amend title: Resolution Supporting Construction of Affordable Housing in the Mission

Amend Resolve language: Resolved, the San Francisco Democratic County Central Committee supports and urges the construction of as much affordable housing as possible in the Mission District.

Member Campos said he would not accept the amendments.

Member Hsieh made a motion to amend the resolution. (Hsieh/Pimentel)

Member Mandelman spoke about a need for affordable housing, but it is wrong to not even have a vote on the real resolution.

Gabriel Medina was recognized as an associate member of the DCCC because he is President of the Latino Democratic Club. He stated the Mission has built more luxury housing than any other neighborhood other than downtown. We have lost 3,000 community members.

Member Dwyer spoke about having to leave the city because her rent was increased by 50%. She is a government worker and her husband is a fire fighter.

Armand Domajeski, Co-Chair of the Progress Democratic Club, spoke about the high costs of building affordable housing – that it is @ \$500,000 per unit.

The question was called. The motion to amend the resolution was defeated 13-12. Below are the votes:

No: David Campos, Petra DeJesus, Matt Dorsey, Bevan Dufty, Kelly Dwyer, Bill Fazio, Hene Kelly, Meagan Levitan, Rafael Mandelman, Eric Mar, Trevor McNeil, Alix Rosenthal, Kamala Harris

Yes: Kat Anderson, Joshua Arce, Zoe Dunning, Tom Hsieh, Mary Jung, Leah Pimentel, Rebecca Prozan, Arlo Hale Smith, Francis Tsang, Scott Wiener, Fiona Ma, David Chiu.

Abstain: Dianne Feinstein, Mark Leno, Phil Ting

Next, a vote was held on the Resolution Supporting the Mission Moratorium. This was defeated 13-10.

No: Kat Anderson, Zoe Dunning, Bill Fazio, Tom Hsieh, Mary Jung, Trevor McNeil, Leah Pimentel, Rebecca Prozan, Arlo Hale Smith, Francis Tsang, Scott Wiener, Fiona Ma, David Chiu

Yes: David Campos, Petra DeJesus, Matt Dorsey, Bevan Dufty, Kelly Dwyer, Hene Kelly, Meagan Levitan, Rafael Mandelman, Eric Mar, Alix Rosenthal

The pro-Moratorium audience members erupted in shouts of “Shame” and it was difficult to hear to continue the meeting.

10. Resolution: Getting to Zero on HIV/AIDS in San Francisco (Dorsey) Discussion and possible action on resolution to support the Getting to Zero consortium’s strategy to make San Francisco the first jurisdiction to get to zero on HIV/AIDS—meaning zero new HIV infections, zero stigma, and zero deaths—and to add a Getting to Zero question to the S.F. Democratic Party’s candidate endorsement questionnaire.

Member Dorsey asked that his resolution be carried over to the June meeting. The Chair agreed and announced “Zero on HIV/AIDS would be heard in July.

11. New Business

The DCCC is unable to discuss or take action on items not on this agenda when those discussions pertain to matters within the jurisdiction of the San Francisco Board of Supervisors. The limited exception is to discuss and take action in deciding whether to calendar such items for a future meeting.

There was no New Business.

12. Adjournment at 11:06 pm