

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Ethics Commission, \(ETH\)](#)  
**Subject:** Re: Meeting comment  
**Date:** Tuesday, August 11, 2020 4:49:07 PM

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As public comment please print the political Facebook post about current supervisor by Larry Bush and send to the five Ethics Commissioners for the meeting on 14 August 2020.

[https://m.facebook.com/story.php?story\\_fbid=10208671335435429&id=1072092738&\\_\\_tn\\_\\_=%2As-R](https://m.facebook.com/story.php?story_fbid=10208671335435429&id=1072092738&__tn__=%2As-R)

On Tue, Jul 7, 2020 at 3:54 PM Chris Cook <[c\[REDACTED\]](#)> wrote:

The story that you can read at the link is for the Five Ethics Commissioners as part of their meeting at 10 July 2020. Please print it and send the story to them. This is my public comment

<https://www.sfweekly.com/news/the-dark-prince-of-city-hall/>

Larry Bush is on Facebook. To connect with Larry, log into Facebook.

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**Larry Bush**

November 6, 2016 at 3:48 PM · San Francisco, CA ·

### AN OPEN LETTER TO AHSHA SAFAI'S ENDORSERS

You are encouraging voters to elect Ahsha Safai to the Board of Supervisors where important decisions for our city will be made.

I am writing this Open Letter to you because I believe you must not have given due consideration to your own decision to endorse candidate Safai.

There must be a better reason to lend your name as an endorser other than that a candidate is a "friend of a friend."

Perhaps your endorsement is because groups and individuals that support you also support Mr. Safai. Endorsing someone to vote on our city's key decisions ought to require more than just being a "friend of a friend."

What you need to consider now, and later in explaining your endorsement, is why Mr. Safai's record in office deserved your support and why even now the ethical cloud that surrounds his candidacy deserves your continued support at this late hour. For 15 years, I was a senior member of the Housing and Urban Development management for Pacific Hawaii, including San Francisco. I was very familiar with the San Francisco Housing Authority, where Mr. Safai served as a Commissioner for three years. Later, as a founding member of Friends of Ethics, I have been very familiar with the ethics requirements and complaints of violations in the conduct of campaigns, lobbying and conflict of interest. In fact, I participated in drafting a number of those laws and policies.

Mr. Safai's record at the Housing Authority does not rise to the level that qualifies him as a member of the Board of Supervisors.

In the three years he served before Mayor Lee demanded his resignation, then-Commissioner Safai stood by while our city's Housing Authority was deemed by HUD to be "Troubled" with scores that fall below minimal standards in housing quality, financial management and even compliance with federal civil rights requirements.

The audit by the Board Budget Analyst audit found that the Housing Authority had misspent millions of dollars, failed to obtain millions more in grants that other housing authorities received, left hundreds of badly needed units vacant because they were shoddy and infected with vermin, and failed to properly review its books.

During this same period, the agency's own attorney sued over violations by the Executive Director, newspapers reported that hundreds of senior and disabled residents had lived for years in high rise buildings with broken elevators that left them stranded, an investigation by the city's former city attorney revealed evidence of bid rigging in contracts and self-dealing, and additional evidence surfaced that the Housing Authority's executive director sought to defund a nonprofit that criticized the agency for its handling of tenant repairs and needs.

Today former Commission Safai explains his failure to discharge his oversight responsibilities by telling a newspaper "We did the best we could with information we were provided as commissioners."

Yet all the then-Commissioner had to do was read the newspapers, read the investigative report by the former city attorney, read the Board Budget Analyst report, read the annual HUD reports on his agency – there was no shortage of information. Instead he preferred to be spoon-fed self-serving and edited information with no questions asked.

But Safai went further. As the Chronicle began delving into the agency's horrendous problems, Safai was one of only two commissioners willing to go on the record.

This is what he said then: "I would say that the general consensus is that (Executive Director) Henry (Alvarez) has done a great job." That "great job" landed the Housing Authority on the list with only one other housing agency in the entire state to fail minimal standards and be deemed "troubled." That designation had consequences for the city and for Housing Authority residents. It meant San Francisco was ineligible to compete for additional funds and that the Commission's oversight had to

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for bringing a benefit to the community but not revealing the actual benefit is to his own wallet.

Mr. Safai seeks attention for bringing 103 new units of housing, with 51 units he says will be under rent control and does not mention that this will make him money. He also hopes no one will recall that this is a fraction of the housing units lost while he was a Housing Authority Commissioner. The facts as reported by the Budget Analyst is that 276 units of affordable public housing were abandoned at that time. Even if Mr. Safai's lobbying and investments help create 105 new units of housing, that is a fraction of the housing lost when he was one of those in charge.

With this past and current record, it is puzzling to see some who have served on the Board of Supervisors or even as mayor now urging that voters seat Mr. Safai at the Board.

Should he win, he will have achieved his election in part because he had your support. He may thank you for that, but it is doubtful that the people of San Francisco, whether they live in his district or not, will also thank you.

It's not too late to honestly account for your endorsement of Mr. Safai, and explain why this record deserves your support and the support of voters.

You owe nothing less to the voters.

Sincerely,

Larry Bush

San Francisco, CA

Page 2 transcript since text is blocked by webpage animation:

...be augmented by a special HUD team to advise it on how to perform its job. THE Consequences extend to the present day. Untold millions approved by voters to create affordable housing now is being diverted to meet the deficits in our Public Housing units that stem from Mr. Safai's tenure. That's money that won't be available to add to an affordable housing supply that is a crisis and rates as the top issue for voters in this election. Mr. Safai's responsibility for that outcome can't be waived away. Mr. Safai's record of ignoring unpleasant details and requirements appears to extend to his current effort. He is the subject of a complaint by the former President of the SF Ethics Commission for failing to register as a lobbyist when he served as a go-between for a developer and the Mayor's office on a housing development this year. He is the subject of another ethics complaint that he has failed to disclose his financial interest in that same housing development – while seeking public credit...