Forwarding comments received by a member of the public re: this week’s meeting.
Thank you.

From: Derek Kerr, MD <wordpress@sfethics.org>
Sent: Friday, December 2, 2022 3:49 PM
To: Ethics Commission, (ETH) <ethics.commission@sfgov.org>
Subject: Website Feedback

What is your feedback about?: Compliments

What would you like to share with us?: Good job!

Name (optional): Derek Kerr, MD
Email (optional): DerekOnVanNess@aol.com

Time: December 2, 2022 at 3:49 pm
IP Address: 108.243.203.7
Contact Form URL: https://url.avanan.click/v2/ https://sfethics.org/...
Ms. Pelham –

Please find attached my letter of support for Phillip Wong, current Project Manager at OEWD.

Sincerely,

Catherine Etzel

______________________

Catherine Etzel
Director of Development

The John Stewart Company
1388 Sutter Street, 11th Floor
San Francisco, CA 94109-5427
CELL: 

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December 5, 2022

LeAnne Pelham
Executive Director
San Francisco Ethics Commission
25 Van Ness Avenue, Suite 220
San Francisco, CA 94102

RE: Letter of Support for Phillip Wong

Dear Ms. Pelham:

I am writing to express my strong support for Phillip Wong’s request to be granted a waiver of Campaign and Governmental Conduct Code Sections 3.234(a)(1) and (a)(2).

As you may know, the development and production of affordable housing in the City and County of San Francisco is a uniquely challenging endeavor. Not only does it require a tremendous amount of private public partnerships across a wide array of City agencies, non-profit partners, affordable housing developers, public utilities, commissions, and boards, but it requires a specific and highly disciplined commitment to stay on task and keep the big picture end goal in mind. This goal is the creation of more affordable homes in a city desperately in need of this rapidly dwindling resource.

The model of HOPE SF is a microcosm of this collaborative spirit. It is a partnership among many stakeholders and groups who are not in competition or seeking personal advantage, rather they are working to support the creation of affordable housing for the most vulnerable communities in San Francisco. HOPE SF projects, including Potrero are some of the most vulnerable communities in San Francisco, as Gavin Newsom and the HOPE SF Task Force identified these four public housing sites as the most distressed and in need of transformational redevelopment.

While the collaboration of HOPE SF partners is vital, the so called “sticks and bricks” role of the developer is arguably the most critical in moving projects from the vision to the reality. It is here that Phillip is uniquely positioned for success to transition to the developer role and this is the main reason I fully support his request for a waiver. The experience and knowledge Phillip will bring by drawing on his front row seat and involvement on the city side is an invaluable attribute and must be leveraged to continue the progress of HOPE SF. Each phase of each HOPE SF project takes years, if not decades, to build. And each requires an extremely dedicated development team. Phillip will bring his ability to navigate the City authorizations, permitting, Commission and Board approval process. This is a crucial element to the success of every HOPE SF project – I know this intimately as this is my lived work experience over the last decade.

I have worked on the Hunters View HOPE SF project since 2013 on behalf of The John Stewart Company. Phillip and I have been working closely together for over three years on the coordination for the new City street and utility infrastructure for Hunters View. I have witnessed firsthand the incredible project management and leadership qualities that Phillip
exhibits. In addition to his technical expertise and capability, Phillip has the highest level of integrity, ethical quality, character, and commitment to HOPE SF and the people involved in decision-making, convening, and moving projects and issues forward to conclusion. Phillip has demonstrated a uniquely dedicated and compassionate side to the work we do and the residents whom we ultimately serve. This City is in an extreme housing crisis, and we need professionals like Phillip leading the way and working on HOPE SF projects at every level and in any capacity, particularly those in complex leadership roles. While I will personally miss working with Phillip in his capacity at OEWD, I know he will continue his great contributions to the efforts of HOPE SF in his new role at BRIDGE Housing.

In summary, I strongly urge the Ethics Committee to grant this waiver as it will have an immediate and positive impact on the production of affordable housing in San Francisco. This City is in a housing crisis – we cannot afford to hold back talented leaders who will work tirelessly to bring more affordable housing to fruition.

Sincerely,

Catherine Etzel
Director of Development
Good morning Director Pelham,

Please find attached a letter of support for Phillip Wong’s waiver request.

Ramie Dare  
(she/her/hers)  
DIRECTOR | Real Estate Development  
415.355.7118 Direct

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.
December 5, 2022

LeeAnn Pelham  
Executive Director  
San Francisco Ethics Commission  
25 Van Ness Avenue, Suite 220  
San Francisco CA 94102  

Re: Letter of Support for Phillip Wong

Dear Director Pelham:

I am writing to express my support for OEWD employee Phillip Wong and his request for a waiver of certain post-employment restrictions under the Campaign and Governmental Conduct Code. Phillip’s written request is dated November 24, 2022. Approval of his waiver request would allow Phillip to join BRIDGE Housing and serve as Potrero HOPE SF Director. In this role, Phillip would oversee the development of affordable housing in the Potrero Hill neighborhood, providing much needed quality affordable housing for existing Potrero Hill low-income public housing residents as well as adding additional affordable and moderate-income housing units to the City. The Potrero HOPE SF development is part of the public/private HOPE SF initiative, created by the City and County of San Francisco, San Francisco Housing Authority and philanthropic and other private partners to transform Potrero and other physically and economically isolated housing complexes in the City into mixed income housing communities with quality neighborhood amenities. The ultimate vision is to build racially and economically inclusive communities that are healthy, thriving neighborhoods.

Since 2008, I have served as the director of real estate development at Sunnydale for Mercy Housing (and our partner Related CA) under the HOPE SF initiative to achieve this vision for Sunnydale, the city’s largest public housing site. Phillip and I have been working closely together on Sunnydale since 2017, with Phillip coordinating the City agencies for the new street and utility infrastructure that we construct for the Sunnydale and Potrero transformations. Phillip is an incredible project manager and leader who consistently exhibits attention to details as well as fostering a sense of teamwork and soliciting the best from everyone involved. He possesses the highest standards for himself and truly stands out as a human being and professional with integrity, ethics and honesty in working with others to solve extremely complicated issues. I have the highest regard for Phillip and am thrilled that he is willing to continue to be part of executing the HOPE SF vision and join BRIDGE Housing to lead the important work to transform Potrero.

Please contact me if you have any questions about my wholehearted recommendation ndare@mercyhousing.org or (415) 355-7118.

Sincerely,

Ramie Dare  
Director of Real Estate
Dear Ms. Pelham:

I am writing in strong support for Phillip Wong’s request to be granted waivers of Sections 3.234(a)(1) and (a)(2) of the Campaign and Governmental Conduct Code.

Phillip has contributed admirably to the efforts and goals of HOPE SF through his expert coordination and facilitation with City agencies. His work has always been publicly accessible for communication with nonprofit and community partners transparent and not “inside knowledge.” As a collaborative partnership, HOPE SF includes several stakeholders that are not in competition with each other nor seek any personal advantage. Instead, they act united toward a common endeavor for the creation of more affordable housing and services for San Francisco’s most vulnerable communities. As affordable housing is a priority across the City, HOPE SF is arguably the highest priority and Phillip’s work has been instrumental toward delivering the goals promised by this initiative.

Phillip’s experience with HOPE SF developments provide him with a unique and invaluable skillset to effectively deliver the goals of Potrero HOPE SF. His leadership and direct experience with the City provides him with a wealth of knowledge that will facilitate the completion of future projects while serving the interests of the City and his new employer. Having the ability to empathize with the City’s perspective and processes will help him excel in this new role and jumpstart important milestones across the Potrero HOPE SF site.

In addition to his immense technical skills and understanding, Phillip has always displayed the highest levels of integrity and commitment to public service. His ability to direct differing perspectives toward a common goal and support colleagues and stakeholders is unmatched. He is deeply committed to his work and motivated by the mission of his projects to improve the City that he loves.

I strongly urge the Ethics Committee to grant these waivers to continue the great work being done at Potrero HOPE SF to provide affordable housing and vital community development services to one of San Francisco’s priority public housing developments.
Thank you for your consideration,

Ryan VanZuylen  
*Multifamily Project Manager*  
Mayor’s Office of Housing and Community Development  
1 South Van Ness, 5th Floor  
San Francisco, CA 94103
Dear Ms. Pelham and Mr. Canning,

I am writing you this letter to voice my strong support for a request for waiver of Sections 3.234(a) (1) and (a)(2) of the Campaign and Governmental Conduct Code on behalf of Phillip Wong, currently employed by OEWD.

The HOPE SF initiative is arguably the most important and transformative affordable housing initiative in San Francisco, and involves a dizzying number of stakeholder groups, from residents and neighbors to a host of City agencies. All these groups share a common goal of revitalizing these long neglected corners of the City, with robust, regular, and transparent communication between all parties required in order to accomplish these highly complicated infrastructure and housing projects. Because of this unique collaborative structure, Phillip would not be bringing any special “City-only” knowledge to Bridge, as the work he’s been engaged on at OEWD is completely open-book to Bridge.

Phillip’s experience at OEWD would be of great value to Bridge – and by extension, to all of the Potrero HOPE SF stakeholders – by providing a level of continuity that would be challenging for Bridge to otherwise provide were they to hire someone without any prior HOPE SF experience. Staff turnovers are always challenging, but are even more fraught with work that is so deeply rooted in community engagement amongst City residents that have just cause to be wary of City interventions given the decades of neglect and collective trauma. While Phillip has not been directly engaged in community outreach in his role at OEWD, he nevertheless brings an awareness of the past and knowledge of the present that will allow him to thoughtfully and compassionately engage with community groups to continue to build trust with residents and concerned neighbors. This knowledge base should serve him, Bridge, and HOPE SF well as we work to sustain momentum on this critical work.

Working with Phillip has been a great pleasure and a highlight of my time at MOHCD. Phillip is one of the most caring, conscientious, hardworking, and thoughtful people I’ve ever worked with. I know that he has not come to the decision lightly, and makes this request with humility and respect for the importance of the rules that you are bound to adjudicate. Should his request be granted, I have
no doubt that Phillip will bring his full talents to bare at Bridge, to the mutual benefit of all of those interested in seeing a successful and vibrant revitalization of Potrero HOPE SF. Thank you for your careful consideration,

**Brendan Dwyer (he, him, his)**  
*Director of Construction Services*

Mayor’s Office of Housing and Community Development  
1 S. Van Ness Avenue, 5th Floor  
San Francisco, CA 94103  
Cell: (510) 830-5681  
Office: (628) 652-5833  
brendan.dwyer@sfgov.org
From: Pelham, Leeann (ETH)  
To: Contreraz, Ronald (ETH)  
Subject: FW: Support for Waiver Request - Phillip Wong  
Date: Tuesday, December 6, 2022 12:55:34 PM

From: Pelham, Leeann (ETH)  
Sent: Tuesday, December 6, 2022 12:55 PM  
To: Adams, Dan (MYR-DEM) <dan.adams@sfgov.org>  
Cc: Canning, Michael (ETH) <michael.a.canning@sfgov.org>  
Subject: RE: Support for Waiver Request - Phillip Wong

Thank you for your communication. I can confirm we have received it and that we will provide to the Ethics Commission in advance of Friday’s meeting.

Regards,
LeeAnn

From: Adams, Dan (MYR-DEM) <dan.adams@sfgov.org>  
Sent: Tuesday, December 6, 2022 9:16 AM  
To: Canning, Michael (ETH) <michael.a.canning@sfgov.org>; Pelham, Leeann (ETH) <leeann.pelham@sfgov.org>  
Subject: RE: Support for Waiver Request - Phillip Wong

I am writing to express my support for the Waiver Request submitted by Phillip Wong so that he may take the position of Director of Potrero at BRIDGE Housing.

Phillip has been an exemplary City of San Francisco employee focused on helping large multi-phased projects, like HOPE SF Potrero as well as many others, move from approvals to reality. Given the complexities of building in San Francisco, we rely on dedicated public servants like Phillip to assist with navigating the City’s bureaucracy in order to achieve important housing production goals and provision of related infrastructure. HOPE SF Potrero is a City-funded public benefit project that includes replacing dilapidated public housing, building new affordable and market rate housing, and providing a host of other community benefits. It is a public-private partnership between the City, the SF Housing Authority, and BRIDGE Housing, created to transform public housing at Potrero Annex and Terrace into a thriving, mixed income neighborhood.

Phillip would be an incredible asset to BRIDGE Housing in the role of Director of Potrero. His knowledge of the project, and his understanding of City process, would be of significant value not only to BRIDGE Housing, but also to the partnership as a whole, including the City and Housing Authority. In this role, he would help us, collectively, to pursue our shared goals of providing safe, decent and dignified housing for current residents, increasing our City’s stock of affordable housing, and integrating a long-neglected neighborhood into the fabric of the City. As a former Director of
the Mayor’s Office of Housing and Community Development, I cannot emphasize too strongly the importance of partnerships with non-profit organizations to achieve our housing and equity goals. While I would love it if Phillip stayed at the City forever, I fully support his decision to grow in his career and seek new opportunities, and could not be more delighted that he would choose to do so in such a way that the City might continue to benefit from his talents and dedication.

The important provisions in the Campaign and Governmental Conduct Code to ensure ethical conduct could not have been created so that someone like Phillip, who began at the City as an intern, would never have the opportunity to work for any of the organizations who have benefited from his work as a City employee. If that were the case, we would never be able to hire people like Phillip – smart, young individuals committed to public service, but with an intelligence and ambition that might lead them to continue such service in the employ of a partnering non-profit organization. To be frank, circumscribing the employment options of young civil servants through a lifetime ban on employment with City non-profit partners, seems to me to be the worst possible outcome of code provisions intended to prevent employees from gaining unfair advantage when they work for “the other side.” In this case, we are on the same side. We at the City will benefit from Phillip’s continued work on our shared public benefit goals. And we need to be able to attract more people like Phillip to come work at the City without instilling in them the fear that their career aspirations will forever be prejudiced should they desire to go out and do good work in the world outside of the City’s aegis.

Again, I strongly urge you to approve the Waiver Request before you.

Very best regards,

Daniel Adams
Senior Advisor, Housing Initiatives | Office of Mayor London Breed
City and County of San Francisco
Greetings,

See attached letter on behalf of myself and the HOPE SF team. Please let me know if you have any questions.

Kind Regards,

Marquez Gray | Director, Community Life and Development
HOPE SF Initiative | Office of the Mayor | City and County of San Francisco
1 South Van Ness, 5th Floor | San Francisco, CA 94103
Website: https://www.hope-sf.org/
LeeAnn Pelham  
Executive Director  
San Francisco Ethics Commission  
25 Van Ness Avenue, Suite 220  
San Francisco, CA 94102

Dear Director Pelham:

This letter is in support of Phillip Wong’s request for waivers of Sections 3.234(a)(1) and (a)(2) of the Campaign and Governmental Conduct Code.

HOPE SF Potrero is part of a unique City-led, public-private initiative that seeks to develop vibrant mixed-income communities at four public housing communities without the mass displacement of the original public housing residents. HOPE SF represents a promise and commitment by the City to these original residents to not only provide high-quality, affordable replacement housing, but to also center resident voice, support healthy communities, and enhance community wealth. The multi-decade initiative has remained a City priority across four mayoral administrations, particularly as the need for affordable housing deepens. The City works in collaboration with a number of partners, such as community-based organizations, resident leaders, philanthropy, and our affordable housing development partners to pursue the initiative’s goals.

Phillip would bring invaluable technical expertise and insight to BRIDGE Housing in the shared goal of bringing more affordable housing online and ensuring the continued success of HOPE SF Potrero. The initiative’s success requires a close collaborative and transparent working relationship between the City and its affordable housing development partners, and Phillip’s involvement with past HOPE SF projects would allow for experienced leadership at the helm of one of our most complex projects. Moreover, Phillip’s history of collaboration across many different stakeholders would make him well-suited to push forth HOPE SF principles and practices, such as centering resident voices in decision-making and creating a culture of inclusion and belonging. Though Phillip has dedicated many years to the City in furtherance of the HOPE SF initiative as a trusted colleague, we know that he would continue the good work with BRIDGE Housing to ensure the ongoing success of HOPE SF Potrero.

Sincerely,

Marquez Gray  
Director, Community Life and Development
LeeAnn Pelham
Executive Director
San Francisco Ethics Commission
25 Van Ness Avenue, Suite 220
San Francisco, CA 94102-6053
c/o Michael Canning, Senior Policy Analyst

Dear Ms. Pelham:

This letter is to strongly support the request of Phillip Wong, Project Manager with the Office of Economic and Workforce Development that the Commission waive Campaign Governmental Conduct Code §§ 3234(a)(1) and (a)(2).

As you may know, work in the arena of creating and supporting affordable and supportive housing in the City and County of San Francisco is uniquely collaborative between OEWD and non-profit affordable housing developers. The production of affordable housing requires drive, sense of purpose and commitment to doing what is right. These words describe Phillip Wong in a way that few others could hope to fulfill. Phillip brings a wealth of insight and has an ethical approach to all aspects of his life.

Affordable housing has been identified as a significant urgent issue for San Francisco and is needed now more than ever. Phillip Wong represents an important resource in the non-profit affordable housing community, both in his current role as a project manager with OEWD and in his future role as director at Bridge Housing, a non profit affordable housing organization. Given his deep knowledge and extensive experience in the field, I believe it is in the City's interest to allow Phillip to work on City-funded affordable housing projects, specifically, Potrero Hope SF in order to further the
City's goals of developing and preserving affordable housing.

Although I recognize that Phillip will be missed at the OEWD, I am extremely pleased that as a City agency dedicated to the creation of housing units in San Francisco, that we will continue to benefit from his integrity, commitment, and professional acumen.

Again, I strongly urge the Ethics Commission to grant this waiver as it will have a direct and positive impact on the production of affordable housing in San Francisco.

Thank you for your consideration.

John F. Thomas, PE
Manager, Infrastructure Task Force