

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Ethics Commission, \(ETH\)](#)
Subject: PUBLIC COMMENT, ETHICS COMMISSION, ITEM 6, SFBC'S ETHICS VIOLATIONS
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FROM:
Mary Miles (SB #230395)
Attorney at Law
[REDACTED]
San Francisco, CA 94103

TO:
San Francisco Ethics Commission
25 Van Ness Avenue
Suite 220
San Francisco, CA 94102
ethics.commission@sfgov.org

**PUBLIC COMMENT ON ITEM 6, AUGUST 18, 2023 ETHICS COMMISSION
AGENDA, SAN FRANCISCO BICYCLE COALITION'S ETHICS VIOLATIONS**

This PUBLIC COMMENT is on ITEM 6 of the Ethics Commission ("Commission") August 18, 2023 Agenda, proposing to accept and approve a Stipulation by the San Francisco Bicycle Coalition ("SFBC") as remedy for numerous ongoing and continuing violations of lobbyist and campaign finance codes.

While the Commission should be commended for penalties against SFBC's strident violations of the law, the Stipulation and small monetary penalties are inadequate in view of the ongoing and long duration of SFBC's continuing violations, and are not adequate to deter future ethics violations.

For at least two decades, SFBC has cumulatively collected millions of public dollars from San Francisco public agency grants, contracts and other funding. (Does that money appear on SFBC's publicly available Form 990 filings or other public accounting?)

SFBC is a sophisticated corporate entity that continually and relentlessly lobbies for its anti-car agenda while receiving public money, endorses ballot measures, and endorses candidates for elected and appointed city offices who then vote for SFBC's advocated projects.

The proposed Stipulation does not acknowledge that Janice Li also receives \$39,414.65 in salary and benefits per year as a Director of the San Francisco Bay Area Rapid Transit District (BART) while she lobbied for the SFBC, which she did not report. (<https://transparentcalifornia.com/salaries/2021/san-francisco-bay-area-rapid-transit-district/janice-m-li/>) She also got paid by SFBC during this time, and she adamantly campaigned during that time for SFBC's anti-car agenda. As a BART Director since 2018, Ms. Li was an elected office holder and therefore received ethics training under AB1234.

That experience is an aggravating factor, Ms. Li should be held fully culpable for ethics violations, and she should pay the maximum fine for violating her ethical duties.

Ms. Li should also either resign or be removed from her position as BART Director.

From April, 2017 through the end of 2021, Ms. Li lobbied city officials 219 times without reporting it. Mr. Wiedenmeier made 170 unreported contacts between January 2017 through 2021. Wiedenmeier incredibly claimed that he was unaware of “how confusing and complex the rules around lobbying are.” (Eddie Sun, 8/15/23, <https://sfstandard.com/2023/08/15/bart-board-president-named-in-ethics-violation/>)

Ms. Li, Mr. Wiedenmeyer and SFBC’s current director Janelle Wong, vocally and incessantly lobby and organize lobbying efforts before the Municipal Transportation Agency Board, the Board of Supervisors, the SFCTA and other agencies, generate form-letters, call-ins at meetings, and calls for action on projects to close streets, remove parking and traffic lanes, create “Slow Streets” obstructions, and even to close Golden Gate Park to cars. The public thus pays SFBC through grants and contracts to conduct an ongoing lobbying campaign to make driving and parking miserable and difficult in San Francisco.

Ms. Wong implausibly claims that SFBC’s ethics violations only relate to Li and Wiedenmeier, and that SFBC’s campaign and money collections to defeat Proposition I (closing Golden Gate Park/JFK Drive to cars) during the 2022 election were “not for the specific purpose of defeating the ballot measure.” (Eddie Sun, 8/15/23, <https://sfstandard.com/2023/08/15/bart-board-president-named-in-ethics-violation/>)

The SFBC is a sophisticated lobbying corporation that knows or should know the rules, profits from public money grants, and it should be strictly held to comply with its ethical duties under the law.

Sincerely,

Mary Miles