

From: [Canning, Michael \(ETH\)](#)
To: [Ethics Commission, \(ETH\)](#)
Cc: [Contreras, Ronald \(ETH\)](#); [Thaikkendiyil, Gayathri \(ETH\)](#); [Massey, Steven \(ETH\)](#)
Subject: FW: Letter enclosed - RE: Waiver Request for October 13th Ethics Commission Meeting
Date: Thursday, October 5, 2023 2:47:49 PM
Attachments: [Colfax Letter to Ethics Commission re Dan Bernal 09.29.23.pdf](#)

Michael Canning | Acting Policy and Legislative Affairs Manager

pronouns: he/him

San Francisco Ethics Commission

25 Van Ness Ave., Suite 220

San Francisco, CA 94102

Michael.A.Canning@sfgov.org | (415) 252-3130

sfethics.org

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 29, 2023 2:21 PM
To: Thaikkendiyil, Gayathri (ETH) <gayathri.thaikkendiyil@sfgov.org>; Canning, Michael (ETH) <michael.a.canning@sfgov.org>
Cc: Dan Bernal <dan.bernal@gmail.com>; Morewitz, Mark (DPH) <mark.morewitz@sfdph.org>; Colfax, Grant (DPH) <grant.colfax@sfdph.org>; VAN NOSTERN, JULIE (CAT) <Julie.Van.Nostern@sfcityatty.org>
Subject: Letter enclosed - RE: Waiver Request for October 13th Ethics Commission Meeting

Dear Acting Director Thaikkendiyil,

Attached please find a letter from Director of Health Dr. Grant Colfax regarding Mr. Bernal's Waiver Request Under San Francisco Campaign and Governmental Conduct Code Section 3.234(a)(3).

Please kindly confirm receipt.

Thank you,

Michaela C. Varisto

Executive Secretary to the Director of Health

San Francisco Department of Public Health

[REDACTED]

San Francisco, CA 94102

[REDACTED]

Pronouns: she, her, hers

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From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 29, 2023 12:55 PM
To: Thaikkendiyil, Gayathri (ETH) <gayathri.thaikkendiyil@sfgov.org>; Canning, Michael (ETH) <michael.a.canning@sfgov.org>
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Waiver Request for October 13th Ethics Commission Meeting

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Dear Ms. Thaikkendiyil and Mr. Canning:

Attached please find a letter requesting a waiver from the prohibition on accepting a job from a City contractor imposed by section 3.234(a)(3). I respectfully request that this item be placed on the agenda for the San Francisco Ethics Commission meeting on October 13, 2023.

Please respond or call me at [REDACTED] if you need additional information.

Best regards,

Dan Bernal



San Francisco Department of Public Health

Grant Colfax, MD
Director of Health

City and County of San Francisco
London N. Breed
Mayor

RE: Waiver Request Under San Francisco Campaign and Governmental Conduct Code Section 3.234(a)(3)

September 29, 2023

Dear Acting Director Thaikkendiyil,

Dan Bernal, the Department of Public Health's Commission President, has served as President for the last three (3) years and as a member of the Health Commission since 2017.


In these roles, his leadership has been outstanding, and he has always demonstrated the highest level of integrity and ethical standards. This includes during the peak COVID pandemic years when the Department faced unprecedented challenges.

Mr. Bernal is an outstanding fit for the UCSF position of Vice Chancellor for Community and Governmental Relations. While this role will result in his resignation from the Health Commission, I am confident that he will continue to make great contributions to the health and wellness of San Franciscans. In particular, his focus on health equity as a Commissioner will be a major asset. Mr. Bernal's decades-long, productive career as a government public servant reflects his deep commitment to the community.

Mr. Bernal's letter outlines his votes as Commissioner related to UCSF contracts and settlement agreements. These items were unanimously approved by the Commission.

Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,



Grant Colfax MD
Director of Health

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Ethics Commission, \(ETH\)](#)
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Support Letter for Dan Bernal's Waiver Request
Date: Friday, September 29, 2023 1:15:45 PM
Attachments: [UCSF-Ethics Commission re UCSF VC CGR 9-29-23.pdf](#)

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To Whom This May Concern:

Please see the attached support letter on behalf of Dan Bernal's waiver request for the October 13 Ethics Commission meeting.

Sam Hawgood, MBBS
Chancellor, University of California San Francisco
Arthur and Toni Rembe Rock Distinguished Professor

Theresa O'Brien, PhD
Associate Chancellor



University of California
San Francisco

Sam Hawgood, MBBS
Chancellor
Arthur and Toni Rembe Rock
Distinguished Professor

Office of the Chancellor

San Francisco, CA 94143

tel: 415.476.6582

www.ucsf.edu

September 29, 2023

City and County of San Francisco
Ethics Commission
24 Van Ness Avenue, Suite 220
San Francisco, CA 94102

Re: Support Letter Dan Bernal Waiver Request

Dear Acting Director Aayathri Thaikkendiyil, Commission Chair Yvonne Lee, Commission Vice-Chair Theis Finlev, Commissioner Argemira Flórez Feng, and Commissioner Yaman Salah:

We are writing on behalf of the University of California, San Francisco (UCSF) to request that you grant the post-employment waiver for Dan Bernal.

UCSF's Search for the Vice Chancellor, Community and Government Relations

In February 2023, UCSF launched a national search to identify the next Vice Chancellor, Community and Government Relations (VC-CGR). We sought a visionary leader who would advance the institutional strategy supporting our public mission and apply subject-matter expertise, wisdom, and excellent judgment in advancing UCSF's engagement with community and government stakeholders. From the start, we focused on candidates with deep experience in the San Francisco Bay Area—where UCSF's impact as a health care provider, employer, and anchor institution is particularly concentrated—and the leadership and expertise to represent UCSF in Sacramento and in Washington, DC. To support our search, the University engaged Opus Partners, a well-established independent executive search firm that conducts senior-level searches for non-for-profit organizations in the United States and abroad and appointed an internal search committee chaired by Associate Chancellor Theresa O'Brien.

The Importance of the VC-CGR Role in Supporting UCSF's Mission

UCSF's priorities in community and government relations are especially important at this time. We find ourselves in an ever-changing environment where health is increasingly a part of policy, economic and social debate. Having a visionary leader guide our community and government relations and anchor institution teams in service of UCSF's public mission is critically important.

The UCSF Vice Chancellor, Community and Government Relations (VC-CGR) is charged with advancing the University's mission through effective, strategically conceived, and responsibly executed activities that increase understanding of and support for the University's activities, investments, priorities, and obligations.

The VC-CGR leads the Community and Government Relations organization, which contributes to the success of the University's strategic objectives by managing community and government relations activities and developing effective alliances with relevant community/civic leaders and organizations as well as with elected and appointed officials at the local, state, and national levels.

The search committee, supported by Opus Partners, conducted a rigorous national search. We explored a talented and diverse pool of candidates. Dan Bernal emerged as the top candidate because of his exceptional commitment to public service and his leadership experience in government, community relations, and health. In more than 25 years working in government and non-profit settings, his track record of building collaborative relationships with lawmakers, government agencies, and community leaders in the San Francisco Bay Area and California is outstanding.




Further, he brings deep expertise in the areas of health care and education policy, including legislation at the local, state, and federal levels. His familiarity with UCSF, including our mission areas, and the many Bay Area communities we serve as a partner in health delivery, health equity, employment, and workforce development makes him uniquely suited to lead UCSF's community and government relations efforts as a member of the Chancellor's leadership team.

Executive searches at this level are time-consuming to undertake and face many uncertainties. We are fortunate to have had a diverse and talented pool of candidates, but it is rare to find someone whose experience, skills, and values align so closely with a role as they do for Dan Bernal and the UCSF VC-CGR role. If we were to reopen the search, we do not believe we would find a candidate better suited than Dan Bernal to advance UCSF's mission in this role.

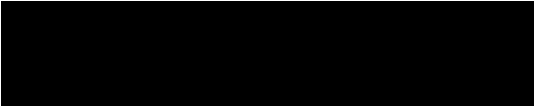
During the extensive candidate vetting process, we received ample affirmation from a list of highly respected references that Dan has sustained a reputation for professionalism, integrity, and commitment to the common good of individuals and communities across the Bay Area. We are confident that he will continue to make meaningful contributions to public service as our Vice Chancellor for Community and Government Relations.

Thank you for your consideration. Please let us know if there is any additional information that we can provide about our search process or our selection of Dan Bernal for UCSF's UCSF VC-CGR role.

Sincerely,



Sam Hawgood, MBBS
Chancellor, University of California San Francisco
Arthur and Toni Rembe Rock Distinguished Professor



Theresa O'Brien, PhD
Associate Chancellor
Chair, Vice Chancellor, Community & Government Search Committee

Addendum: The University of California, San Francisco

The University of California, San Francisco (UCSF) is the leading university dedicated to advancing health worldwide through preeminent biomedical research, graduate-level education in the life sciences and health professions, and excellence in patient care. Within our overarching advancing health worldwide mission, UCSF is devoted at every level to serving the public.

UCSF's commitment to public service dates to the founding of its predecessor institution, Toland Medical College, in 1864. Born out of the overcrowded and unsanitary conditions of Gold Rush-era San Francisco, Toland Medical College trained doctors to elevate the standards of public health in the burgeoning city. By 1873, the University of California acquired the college and forged a partnership with San Francisco General Hospital that continues to this day and serves as a model for delivering leading-edge care at a public safety-net hospital.

Today UCSF's public mission goes beyond San Francisco and delivers a substantial impact at regional, national, and international scales by innovating health care approaches for the world's most vulnerable populations; training the next generation of doctors, nurses, dentists, pharmacists, and scientists; supporting elementary and high school education; and translating scientific discoveries into better health for everyone.

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Ethics Commission, \(ETH\)](#)
Cc: [Thaikkendiyil, Gayathri \(ETH\)](#); [Canning, Michael \(ETH\)](#); [Peskin, Aaron \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Peskin- Support Letter- Dan Bernal
Date: Wednesday, October 4, 2023 5:09:30 PM
Attachments: [Peskin_10-4-23_Support_Letter_Dan_Bernal_Waiver_Request.pdf](#)

Please see attached.

Sincerely,

Sarah

Sarah Souza, MPA
Legislative Aide
Office of Board President Peskin, District 3

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

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City and County of
San Francisco



Board of Supervisors,
President

AARON PESKIN
市參事 佩斯金

October 4, 2023
VIA EMAIL

President Yvonne Lee and Members
San Francisco Ethics Commission <ethics.commission@sfgov.org>
25 Van Ness Ave., Suite 202
San Francisco, CA 94102

RE: Dan Bernal waiver request

Dear President Lee and Commissioners:

I write to express my strong support for Dan Bernal's waiver request from Section 3.234(a)(3) of the Campaign and Governmental Conduct Code, to be heard at your commission meeting on October 13, 2023. I've known Dan since the early 2000's when I was serving my first term on the Board of Supervisors. My staff and I have always been struck by his professionalism, integrity, and commitment to public service and public health. As a San Francisco Health Commissioner Dan has played an important role in overseeing the Department of Public Health and has helped advance our health priorities during the COVID pandemic. Mr. Bernal has served our community for over 20 years in numerous roles with dedication and distinction.

While Mr. Bernal's departure from the Health Commission is a loss for the City, he would continue serving San Francisco in his work at the University of California San Francisco (UCSF) for which he is uniquely qualified given his lived experience as a person living with HIV/AIDS, and his extensive governmental and public health experience. I cannot envision a more fitting position for Mr. Bernal and he would be a remarkable asset for UCSF and in turn for the people of San Francisco. This is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for him to bring his broad experience, and to work in, for, and with a community he knows and cares deeply for.

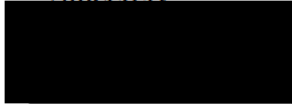
I am aware that during the past year Mr. Bernal, in his capacity as a Health Commissioner, has participated in a number of Health Commission votes to award contracts to UCSF but believe that his request for a waiver is warranted and supportable. As set forth in Mr. Bernal's letter to Ethics Commission staff dated September 29, 2023 which I have reviewed, I believe that the Commission can and should find hardship. I further believe that granting such a waiver will not raise ethical concerns. Everyone who knows him vouches for Dan's integrity.

Peskin
Page 2

I know that he understands and will strictly adhere to the requirements of the Campaign and Governmental Conduct Code which (1) permanently ban him from representing UCSF for matters in which he personally participated; (2) ban lobbying the SFDPH for any matter on behalf of UCSF for one year; and (3) ban him from ever disclosing or otherwise using any confidential or privileged information obtained during his service on the Health Commission.

I respectfully urge you to grant this waiver for Dan Bernal.

Sincerely



Aaron Peskin

Cc: Acting Director Thaikkendiyil Gayathri.thaikkendiyil@sfgov.org
Michael Canning, Ethics, <Michael.a.canning@sfgov.org>

From: [Thaikkendiyil, Gayathri \(ETH\)](#)
To: [Canning, Michael \(ETH\)](#); [Contreras, Ronald \(ETH\)](#)
Subject: FW: Waiver for Daniel Bernal
Date: Thursday, October 5, 2023 11:31:41 AM
Attachments: [Daniel Bernal.docx](#)

Hi both, I am sharing attached comment.

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, October 4, 2023 10:54 PM
To: Thaikkendiyil, Gayathri (ETH) <gayathri.thaikkendiyil@sfgov.org>
Cc: Thaikkendiyil, Gayathri (ETH) <gayathri.thaikkendiyil@sfgov.org>
Subject: Waiver for Daniel Bernal

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Dear Ms. Thaikkendiyil:

I am writing in support of the waiver requested by Mr. Daniel Bernal to assume the Vice Chancellor position at University of California San Francisco.

Please accept the attached letter.

I am available to answer any clarifying questions or concerns.

Charles M. Collins

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
San Francisco, CA 94118

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

VIA E-MAIL

October 4, 2023

Ms. Gayathri Thaikkendiyil
Acting Executive Director
San Francisco Ethics Commission
25 Van Ness Avenue, Suite 220
San Francisco, CA 94102

RE: Waiver Request Under San Francisco Campaign and Governmental Conduct Code Section 3.234(a)(3)

Dear Ms. Thaikkendiyil:

Pursuant to San Francisco Campaign and Governmental Conduct Code section 3.234(c)(3), I am writing on behalf of Daniel Bernal to request a waiver from the prohibition on accepting a job from a City contractor imposed by section 3.234(a)(3).

I understand that Mr. Bernal's role as a member of the San Francisco Health Commission, requires that he seek a waiver in order to accept an offer of state government employment from the University of California, San Francisco (UCSF) to serve as Vice Chancellor for Community & Government Relations.

After reviewing City law and Ethics Commission regulations, as well as recent examples of the Ethics Commission reviewing waivers from this section, I believe that the circumstances of Mr. Bernal's participation in matters before the Health Commission related to UCSF and his professional and personal qualifications for this unique employment opportunity in the public inter warrant the Ethics Commission to grant a waiver and allow Mr. Barnal to accept the position with the University of California San Francisco.

I have known and worked with Mr. Bernal for nearly two decades as Chief of Staff to Speaker Emerita Nancy Pelosi during and following my role as President and Chief Executive Officer of the YMCA of San Francisco. During this time, and on numerous occasions, we relied on Mr. Bernal to support issues of significance to the YMCA and our many communities in the Bay Area and throughout the United States.

Most recently, during the pandemic, our entire community service model was challenged because of matters within the scope of the United States Congress. Were it not for Mr. Bernal's advocacy and Speaker Pelosi's leadership, pandemic relief funds would not have been made possible. I believe it was Mr. Bernal's unique perspective of understanding the importance of federal support for local health and human services problems that made the difference. Because of this, thousands of children, youth, families and community members endured the pandemic.

As Vice Chancellor for Community & Government Relations, Mr. Bernal will continue to serve the public and apply his unique background and experience to the betterment of our communities, San Francisco and the State of California. His understanding of our local context and the significance of the broader world of policy and decision making is exceptional.

I am pleased and honored to support Mr. Bernal's Waiver Request Under San Francisco Campaign and Governmental Conduct Code Section 3.234(a)(3). Please feel free to contact me with any matters that may require clarification.

Sincerely,

o/s

Charles M. Collins

[REDACTED]

San Francisco, CA 94118

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Lee, Yvonne \(ETH\)](#)
Cc: [Canning, Michael \(ETH\)](#)
Subject: Letter from Supervisor Connie Chan to Ethics Commission
Date: Wednesday, October 4, 2023 12:25:51 PM
Attachments: [20231004123143160.pdf](#)

Chair Lee:

Attached, please find a letter from Supervisor Chan regarding an upcoming agenda item for the Ethics Commission. The original version of the letter has been sent through interdepartmental mail, but I am including an electronic copy so that it may be included in your file for this item.

Please let me know if you have any questions regarding this matter or problems with the file.

Thank you,
Frances

Frances Hsieh | 謝令宜
Office of Supervisor Connie Chan
San Francisco Board of Supervisors, District 1
[REDACTED]

Member, Board of Supervisors
District 1



City and County of San Francisco

CONNIE CHAN

陳詩敏

第一區市參事

October 4, 2023

Chair Yvonne Lee and Commissioners
San Francisco Ethics Commission
25 Van Ness Avenue, #220
San Francisco, CA 94102

RE: Support for Dan Bernal 3.234(a)(3) waiver request

Dear Chair Lee and Commissioners:

I am writing to express my support for Dan Bernal's request for a waiver from the restriction imposed by San Francisco Campaign and Government Conduct Code Section 3.234(a)(3) on accepting employment from a City contractor.

I have worked with Mr. Bernal for nearly 20 years, during his entire public service career. In my experience he has always acted with the public's interest first and foremost and with a high degree of integrity.

As a member and President of the San Francisco Health Commission, Mr. Bernal has served with distinction, guiding the Commission through a particularly challenging time during COVID.

I understand that, during his time on the Health Commission, he participated in consent agenda votes involving contracts between the City and UCSF. However as Commissioner, he does not have direct involvement in contract negotiation and only serves in an advisory capacity in reviews and recommendations.

While Mr. Bernal's departure from federal government service and from the Health Commission will be a loss, I know he will continue his service to the public in his new role as Vice Chancellor for Community and Government Relations.

I urge you to grant this waiver for Dan Bernal. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]
Connie Chan

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Ethics Commission, \(ETH\)](#); [Thaikkendiyil, Gayathri \(ETH\)](#)
Subject: Public Comment Submission
Date: Wednesday, October 4, 2023 2:30:14 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)
[10.4.23 Dan Bernal SF Ethics Commission.docx](#)

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Dear Acting Executive Director Thaikkendiyil, President Lee, and Commissioners:

Attached, please find a letter from Lt. Governor Eleni Kounalakis providing public comment regarding Daniel Bernal's waiver request that will be considered during the San Francisco Ethics Commission meeting on Friday, October 13, 2023.

Please respond or feel free to contact Lt. Governor Kounalakis if you need more information.

Thank you!

--

Aleksandra Reetz (*she/her*)
Deputy Chief of Staff
Office of Lt. Governor Kounalakis





ELENI KOUNALAKIS
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

Wednesday, October 4, 2023

Ms. Gayathri Thaikkendiyil
Acting Executive Director
San Francisco Ethics Commission
25 Van Ness Avenue, Suite 220
San Francisco, CA 94102

VIA EMAIL

RE: Daniel Bernal Waiver Request Under San Francisco Campaign and Governmental Conduct Code Section 3.234(a)(3)

Dear Acting Executive Director Thaikkendiyil and Commissioners:

I am writing to express my strong support for your consideration of a waiver for Mr. Daniel Enrique Bernal to accept the Vice Chancellor for Community and Government Relations position at the University of California San Francisco (UCSF).

My professional relationship with Mr. Bernal has spanned two decades, and I am confident he is the ideal candidate for this position. As Chief of Staff for Speaker Pelosi, Mr. Bernal has demonstrated that he is a highly capable and invaluable professional able to serve at the highest levels of government service and uphold the greatest standards of integrity and ethics. He has built strong and collaborative relationships with elected officials, government agencies, and community and political leaders at the local, state, and national levels that would prove a tremendous asset in advancing UCSF's mission and priorities.

Mr. Bernal has an outstanding reputation throughout the Bay Area and California and is well-liked and respected. As President of the San Francisco Health Commission, he has demonstrated his longstanding commitment to public service and health equity. He has proven to be an effective and kind manager who constantly seeks opportunities to support and elevate staff to help them achieve success and satisfaction in their roles.



ELENI KOUNALAKIS
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

I respectfully request your consideration of a waiver for Daniel Bernal to serve as Vice Chancellor for Community & Government Relations at UCSF, where I am confident that Mr. Bernal will be a tremendous asset to the University of San Francisco and the State of California. Should you have any questions, please don't hesitate to reach me at [REDACTED] or [REDACTED].

Sincerely,



Ambassador Eleni Kounalakis (RET.)
Lieutenant Governor

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Ethics Commission, \(ETH\)](#)
Cc: [Thaikkendiyil, Gayathri \(ETH\)](#)
Subject: Public Comment for 10-13-23 Ethics Commission Meeting: Dan Bernal waiver request
Date: Wednesday, October 4, 2023 11:08:49 PM
Attachments: [2023 Dan Bernal Waiver Request.pdf](#)

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Dear Acting Executive Director Thaikkendiyil, President Lee and Commissioners:

Attached please find a letter providing public comment regarding Daniel Bernal's waiver request that will be considered during the San Francisco Ethics Commission meeting on Friday, October 13, 2023. Please respond if you need more information. Thank you!

Laurie Green M.D. [REDACTED]

Board Chairperson and Founder

[The MAVEN Project](#)

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Pacific Women's Obstetrics & Gynecology Medical Group

Secily Bason Mitchell, MD
Fung Yee Chan, MD
Laurie Green, MD
Sarah Hebl, MD
Joanne Hom, MD
Poornima Kaul, MD
Elizabeth Moy, MD

October 4, 2023

VIA E-MAIL

Ms. Gayathri Thaikkendiyil
Acting Executive Director
San Francisco Ethics Commission

RE: Waiver on section 2.234(a)(3) regarding Daniel E. Bernal

Dear Ms. Thaikkendiyil and Commission Members,

I am writing to urge the Ethics Commission to grant Dan Bernal the above-mentioned waiver. As Vice Chair of the Health Commission for over two years, and member for five, I have had the privilege of working closely with Dan, observing his leadership, values, and unwavering commitment to the welfare of all San Franciscans.

Potential conflict

To my knowledge, Dan has never participated personally or substantially in the awarding of any contracts. DPH staff negotiates and the Health Commission Finance and Planning Committee (of which he is not a member) reviews and recommends Commission approval on our Consent Calendar. No separate discussions have occurred on these items; rather, the entire Commission have approved all on the list with a unanimous vote. He has not commented or opined on any UCSF-related contracts during the past year.

Most importantly, the Commission acts only in an advisory capacity as final approval rests with the Health Director or Board of Supervisors. Hence, Dan's participation in the outcome of any contract negotiations has been minimal.

Ethics, Importance of UCSF Position, and Hardship

During our 5 years working together, I've observed the respect and confidence that individuals from all walks of life have for Dan. Whether the Mayor's staff, leaders at CBOs, supervisors, or fellow AIDS/HIV advocates, Dan is highly regarded for his selflessness and honesty. He is extraordinarily attuned to the feelings of others, and the myriad individuals across the City who admire him are a testament to his kind personality and skillful advocacy.

Dan's dedication to public service and health equity are indisputable. For years, he has volunteered countless hours, above and beyond his responsibilities in Speaker Emerita Pelosi's office, working on Health Commission business, and deploying his considerable knowledge and

experience to help numerous organizations and individuals. His vast experience in local, state, and national government was pivotal in helping Laguna Honda Hospital achieve recertification.

Dan was awarded the prestigious job as Vice Chancellor for Community and Government Relations after an exhaustive national search involving top notch candidates, and he is the ideal choice for this role. UCSF must thoughtfully incorporate St. Mary's and St. Francis Hospitals' staff and patient populations; address the mental health and substance use disorder crisis; advance research and teaching goals in an increasingly resource-constrained environment; and advance initiatives to help the Bay Area's most under-resourced communities. As primary spokesperson, he will be a voice of reason and stability among key constituents.

As he has written in his own waiver request, Dan would be seriously harmed financially and personally were he unable to assume his new position; but we would lose a great talent and contributor to the health and well-being of our City.

I strongly recommend the granting of a waiver for this outstanding individual.

Sincerely,

A solid black rectangular redaction box covering the signature of Laurie R. Green.

Laurie R. Green M.D. F.A.C.O.G.

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Ethics Commission, \(ETH\)](#)
Cc: [Thaikkendiyil, Gayathri \(ETH\)](#)
Subject: Re: Public Comment for October 13th Ethics Commission Meeting - Daniel Bernal Waiver Request
Date: Wednesday, October 4, 2023 3:10:54 PM
Attachments: [CCDC Malcolm Yeung - FINAL.doc](#)

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Disregard the earlier attachment, and please use this one instead.

Thanks,

Edwin Chen

Executive Assistant | Executive

Pronouns: *he/him/his*

Chinatown Community Development Center

[REDACTED] | San Francisco, CA | 94108

[REDACTED]

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From: Edwin Chen

Sent: Wednesday, October 4, 2023 2:44 PM

To: ethics.commission@sfgov.org <ethics.commission@sfgov.org>

Cc: gayathri.thaikkendiyil@sfgov.org <gayathri.thaikkendiyil@sfgov.org>

Subject: Public Comment for October 13th Ethics Commission Meeting - Daniel Bernal Waiver Request

Dear Acting Executive Director Thaikkendiyil, President Lee and Commissioners:

Attached please find a letter from Chinatown Community Development Center Executive Director Malcolm Yeung providing public comment regarding Daniel Bernal's waiver request that will be considered during the San Francisco Ethics Commission meeting on Friday, October 13, 2023. Please respond or feel free to contact Mr. Yeung if you need more information.

Thanks,

Edwin Chen

Executive Assistant | Executive

Pronouns: *he/him/his*

Chinatown Community Development Center

[REDACTED] | San Francisco, CA | 94108

[REDACTED]

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From: [REDACTED]
To: [Ethics Commission, \(ETH\)](#)
Cc: [Thaikkendiyil, Gayathri \(ETH\)](#)
Subject: Public Comment for October 13th Ethics Commission Meeting - Daniel Bernal Waiver Request
Date: Wednesday, October 4, 2023 2:47:05 PM
Attachments: [Support Letter for Dan Bernal.doc](#)

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Dear Acting Executive Director Thaikkendiyil, President Lee and Commissioners:

Attached please find a letter from Chinatown Community Development Center Executive Director Malcolm Yeung providing public comment regarding Daniel Bernal's waiver request that will be considered during the San Francisco Ethics Commission meeting on Friday, October 13, 2023. Please respond or feel free to contact Mr. Yeung if you need more information.

Thanks,

Edwin Chen

Executive Assistant | Executive

Pronouns: *he/him/his*

Chinatown Community Development Center

[REDACTED] | San Francisco, CA | 94108

[REDACTED]

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San Francisco, CA 94108

www.chinatowncdc.org

October 3, 2023

Dear Director Thaikkendiyil, Commission Chair Lee, and Commissioners:

I urge you to support Daniel Enrique Bernal's employment waiver request which will come before you on the October 13, 2023 Ethics Commission meeting.

Dan has a decades-long professional history in public service in his capacity as Chief of Staff for Nancy Pelosi and as a member of the San Francisco Health Commission. With his extensive knowledge and experience in government, I believe he is the ideal fit for the vacant position of Vice Chancellor for Community & Government Relations at the University of California, San Francisco (UCSF).

In my capacity as both past Deputy Director and now current Executive Director of Chinatown Community Development Center, I have had a direct working relationship with Dan for nearly a decade now. Organizationally, this relationship extends well beyond that.

My first interaction with Dan was through his role in supporting the API Council in the early 2010's. API Council is a coalition of San Francisco based service non-profits whose primary service population are Asian and Pacific Islanders. The API Council was created to increase the resources available to its members to better serve the API Community. Dan recognized the growing importance of API Council early on in our history and worked with us to facilitate an API heritage month roundtable discussion with Speaker Pelosi. This roundtable has continued annually through "thick and thin" and has been a highlight of our year. At the time of the initial roundtable, API Council had roughly twenty (20) member nonprofits but has since grown to nearly fifty (50).

More recently, Dan worked with the Chinatown community to bring Speaker Nancy Pelosi to Chinatown during the pre-pandemic period. Even before "shut down" was announced in March, Chinatown was feeling the impact of the pandemic. This was further exacerbated by the former President's intentional efforts to stoke pandemic related anti-Chinese sentiment. As a result, attendance at that year's Lunar New Year Parade (which happened before "shut down"), dropped by well over 30%. Visitation to Chinatown pre-"shut down" also dropped dramatically. Note that the Lunar New Year period, which typically occurs in February, is the economic and cultural highlight of the year generating nearly 1/3 of all small business sales for the entire year. Chinatown was devastated.

Speaker Pelosi's visit to Chinatown was a ray of hope in a dark time. Her friendship and encouragement energized our community and helped catalyze a level of unity within the community in responding to the pandemic and the growing of Anti-Asian sentiment in the ensuing months and years. Dan is one of the few people who understood that Speaker Pelosi's early pandemic visit to Chinatown would have much more than symbolic impact.

UCSF, a public institution with a significant role in supporting the most vulnerable communities in San Francisco, needs leaders like Dan. The Vice Chancellor position is critical in guiding UCSF's strategy towards directing that support. Dan "gets it" and gets San Francisco in a way few leaders with the "on paper qualifications" necessary for such a significant public role would. He is the ideal candidate for this position and will, without a doubt, deepen UCSF's support in the communities that need it the most.



[Redacted]
San Francisco, CA 94108
[Redacted]
[Redacted]
www.chinatowncdc.org

I respectfully request that you approve Daniel's waiver so that he can accept the Vice Chancellor position to help support in the San Francisco Bay Area's vulnerable communities.

Sincerely,

[Redacted signature]

Malcolm Yeung, Executive Director
Chinatown Community Development Center

From: [Dorsey, Matt \(BOS\)](#)
To: [Ethics Commission, \(ETH\)](#)
Subject: Letter of Support: Dan Bernal
Date: Wednesday, October 4, 2023 4:07:12 PM
Attachments: [Matt Dorsey - Dan Bernal letter.pdf](#)

Dear Chair Lee and Commissioners,

Attached is a letter of support for Dan Bernal and his employment offer at University of California, San Francisco.

Best,
MATT DORSEY

Member, Board of Supervisors, District 6

[CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO](#)

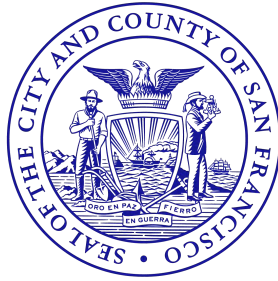
City Hall, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

San Francisco, Calif. 94102

[REDACTED]

City and County
of San Francisco



Member, District 6,
Board of Supervisors

MATT DORSEY

麥德誠

VIA E MAIL

Chair Lee and Commissioners
San Francisco Ethics Commission
25 Van Ness Avenue, Suite 220
San Francisco, CA 94102

Re: Dan Bernal accepting a job from a City contractor waiver request

I want to write to express my strong support for Dan Bernal's waiver from the prohibition on accepting a job from a City contractor, to be heard at your commission meeting on Friday, Oct. 13, 2023.

I first met Dan in Washington D.C. nearly thirty years ago and have had the privilege of working closely with him in many capacities. During this time, I have witnessed his deep and long lasting commitment to public service and health equity, in addition to his strong leadership and interpersonal skills.

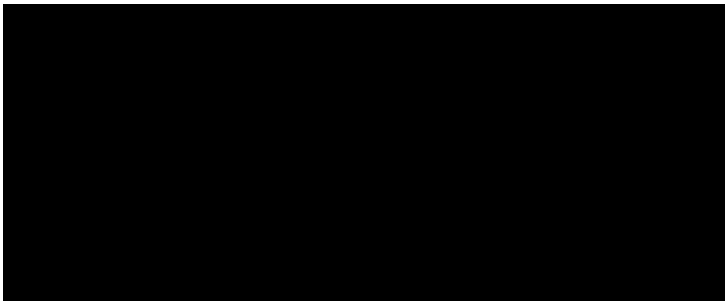
Dan is the ideal candidate for the Vice Chancellor for Community & Government Relations at UCSF. His advocacy for the LGBTQIA community sets him apart from his colleagues, and the importance of representation and visibility for LGBTQ and HIV positive people in senior government positions should not be overlooked. The position requires strategic thinking and communication with a diverse pool of stakeholders, and Dan's time as chief of staff in Speaker Emerita Pelosi's office is a testament to his ability to make and maintain relationships exceptionally well.

Furthermore, Dan possesses a deep sense of integrity and ethical responsibility that is truly admirable. He constantly conducts himself in a professional manner and expresses the utmost honesty and transparency in his actions.

One of the most remarkable aspects of Dan's character is his unshakable commitment to the betterment of the community. Dan joins me as a recipient of the Shanti Project's James Hormel Community Spirit Award, an award that recognizes people who have gone above and beyond in reaching out and serving others in their community.

I truly believe Dan's character aligns with the nature of this job and urge the Ethics Commission to allow him to accept his offer even though he served as a member of the San Francisco Health Commission. For the reasons stated in this letter, I can assure there will not be a conflict of interest and that Dan will fully commit to his employment at UCSF.

Sincerely,



Matt Dorsey
Member, Board of Supervisors, District 6

From: [Low, Jen \(BOS\)](#)
To: [Ethics Commission, \(ETH\)](#)
Cc: [Thaikkendiyil, Gayathri \(ETH\)](#); [Melgar, Myrna \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Letter of Support from Supervisor Melgar - Dan Bernal
Date: Wednesday, October 4, 2023 2:41:25 PM
Attachments: [Supervisor Melgar Letter of Support - Dan Bernal.pdf](#)

Dear Ethics Commission Staff,

Please find attached a letter of support from Supervisor Melgar for Mr. Dan Bernal's waiver request that is before the Commission next week.

Thank you in advance for relaying this to the Commissioners and for including it as part of the packet.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

Jen

Jen Low
Supervisor Myrna Melgar



Member, Board of Supervisors
District 7



City and County of San Francisco

MYRNA MELGAR

October 2, 2023

SENT VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL TO: Ethics.Commission@sfgov.org

President Yvonne Lee
San Francisco Ethics Commission
25 Van Ness Avenue, Suite 220
San Francisco, CA 94102

RE: Waiver Request for Dan Bernal

Dear President Lee and Commissioners:

I am writing in support of a waiver request for Dan Bernal to allow him the opportunity to accept a new and exciting career opportunity. As the long-standing San Francisco Chief of Staff with Speaker Emerita Nancy Pelosi's office and as a dutiful member of the San Francisco Health Commission, Mr. Bernal demonstrates a deep commitment to the people of San Francisco and dedicated much of his life to public service. Over the course of the past year, I worked closely with Mr. Bernal to address the crisis at the Laguna Honda Hospital and Rehabilitation Center when funding for Medicare and Medicaid payments were paused and the treasured institution was on a rocky path to recertification. Throughout that ordeal, Mr. Bernal was a strong, steady advocate who monitored the process closely and offered methodical guidance on our strategy to get back into compliance. He is one of the few people I fully entrust and have counted on to bring forward solutions regardless of the situation.

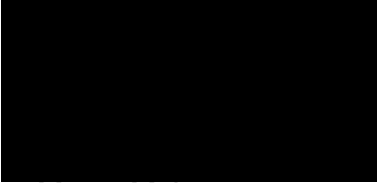
Mr. Bernal has been offered the role of Vice Chancellor of Community and Governmental Relations for the University of California San Francisco (UCSF). I am proud to have UCSF in the district I represent on the Board of Supervisors. I know firsthand the importance of having a responsive liaison that really values neighborhood input and that can bridge the divide during contentious debates. UCSF is undergoing massive transformation with a comprehensive plan for a new hospital and housing at Parnassus Heights. UCSF is also in the process of acquiring two new hospitals in San Francisco. I believe that Mr. Bernal would not only bring extensive experience to the role, but would also offer a unique perspective as someone who has navigated the healthcare system with HIV. We also need to see more LGBTQ+ and Latinx representation within senior positions and Mr. Bernal has dedicated his life's work to promoting equitable health outcomes for marginalized communities. While we will be losing an astute Health Commissioner, we would be gaining an experienced leader, thought partner, and community-oriented liaison that will strengthen the City's partnership with UCSF.

I have full confidence that Mr. Bernal will continue to uphold ethical standards and will follow the post-service restrictions with earnestness.

He centers the public in his decision-making and would never misuse his privileges for self-gain. Even in the process of being vetted for this position, Mr. Bernal went to great lengths to ensure that there were no potential conflicts with his role as a Health Commissioner and has followed procedures conscientiously.

I hold Mr. Bernal in high regard for his integrity and I am urging the Commission to grant him this waiver so that he can take on this new role. Thank you for your strong consideration.

Sincerely,




Myrna Melgar
Member, Board of Supervisors
District 7

Cc: Gayathri Thaikkendiyil, Acting Executive Director, San Francisco Ethics Commission

From: [Ho, Calvin \(BOS\)](#)
To: [Ethics Commission, \(ETH\)](#)
Cc: [Thaikkendiyil, Gayathri \(ETH\)](#); [Mandelman, Rafael \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Waiver Request for October 13th Ethics Commission Meeting - Daniel Bernal
Date: Wednesday, October 4, 2023 1:14:01 PM
Attachments: [Supervisor Mandelman Letter Daniel Bernal.pdf](#)

Dear Acting Executive Director Thaikkendiyil, President Lee and Commissioners:

Attached please find a letter from Supervisor Rafael Mandelman providing public comment regarding Daniel Bernal's waiver request that will be considered during the San Francisco Ethics Commission meeting on Friday, October 13, 2023. Please respond or feel free to contact Supervisor Mandelman if you need more information.

Calvin Ho (*he/they*)
Legislative Aide
Office of Supervisor Rafael Mandelman, District 8
calvin.ho@sfgov.org | 

Member, Board of Supervisors
District 8



City and County of San Francisco

RAFAEL MANDELMAN

October 4, 2023

VIA EMAIL

Ms. Gayathri Thaikkendiyil
Acting Executive Director
San Francisco Ethics Commission
25 Van Ness Avenue, Suite 220
San Francisco, CA 94102

RE: Waiver Request Under San Francisco Campaign and Governmental Conduct Code Section 3.234(a)(3) for Daniel Bernal

Dear Ms. Thaikkendiyil:

I am writing to support a request by Daniel Bernal for a waiver from the prohibition on accepting a job from a City contractor imposed by section 3.234(a)(3).

Mr. Bernal is a member of the San Francisco Health Commission and is seeking this waiver in order to accept an offer of state government employment from the University of California, San Francisco (UCSF) to serve as Vice Chancellor for Community & Government Relations.

I have known Mr. Bernal since he began working for Speaker Emerita Nancy Pelosi in 2002. He is a lifelong public servant who is dedicated to meeting the health and other needs of all San Franciscans.

As a gay man living openly with HIV for more 33 years, Mr. Bernal has a deep and personal connection to UCSF's mission and values and credits the leadership of UCSF researchers and physicians from earliest days of the AIDS crisis for his being alive today. He has led by example though volunteering and serving on the boards of the AIDS Emergency Fund and Breast Cancer Emergency Fund, Susan B. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation Bay Area Affiliate, San Francisco AIDS Foundation and National AIDS Memorial. In addition, Mr. Bernal was appointed by California State Senate President pro Tempore Toni Atkins to serve as the HIV/AIDS Patient Advocate on the Independent Citizens Oversight Committee of the California Institute for Regenerative Medicine to expand stem cell and gene therapy research, clinical trials, treatments and cures for underserved communities.

As you know, UCSF is our Nation's leading public university dedicated to advancing health worldwide through preeminent biomedical research, graduate-level education in the life sciences and health professions, and excellence in patient care. UCSF is San Francisco's second largest employer after the City and County and the fourth largest employer in the Bay Area with more than 25,000 employees.

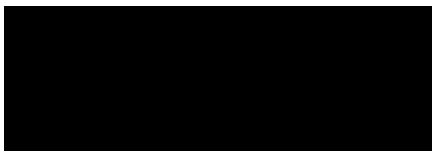
I am aware that during the last twelve months of his service on the Health Commission, Mr. Bernal participated in unanimous voice votes to approve consent calendars that contained contracts involving UCSF. After reviewing these votes, I believe that his participation in the contracts was nominal and had no impact on their outcome. Each contract was recommended by the Department of Public Health staff and placed on the Commission's consent calendar by the Finance and Planning Committee, on which he does not serve. Each item passed unanimously with no discussion or debate of the individual contracts.

The role of Vice Chancellor for Community & Government Relations is critical to engaging residents in my Supervisorial District and across San Francisco in UCSF projects and activities and to incorporate community input into UCSF initiatives. At a time of rapid growth and potential societal impact for UCSF, I cannot think of a person who is better suited than Mr. Bernal to serve as UCSF's liaison to elected officials, government agencies and community leaders in the San Francisco Bay Area. In addition, allowing Mr. Bernal to serve in this role would increase representation of LGBTQ+, HIV-positive and Latinx individuals serving in senior state government positions.

My understanding is that if Mr. Bernal is unable to accept this role, he will also be burdened with financial hardship. Allowing him to accept this position would significantly increase his salary and would provide much-needed benefits that are essential for him to meet his financial obligations and have a secure retirement in less than twelve years.

Thank you for your consideration of this letter. If you have questions or need more information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

A large black rectangular redaction box covering the signature area.

Rafael Mandelman
District 8 Supervisor, City and County of San Francisco

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Ethics Commission, \(ETH\)](#)
Cc: [Thaikkendiyil, Gayathri \(ETH\)](#)
Subject: Public Comment for October 13th Ethics Commission Meeting - Daniel Bernal Waiver Request
Date: Thursday, October 5, 2023 1:50:32 PM
Attachments: [Bernal Ethics Wiaver.pdf](#)

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

Dear Acting Executive Director Thaikkendiyil, President Lee and Commissioners:

Attached please find a letter providing public comment regarding Daniel Bernal's waiver request that will be considered during the San Francisco Ethics Commission meeting on Friday, October 13, 2023.

Please respond if you need more information.

Thank you for your consideration.

John



John B. Cunningham

Chief Executive Officer

[REDACTED]

Pronouns: He, Him, His

jcunningham@aidsmemorial.org

www.aidsmemorial.org

By sharing the story of the struggle against HIV/AIDS, we remember, in perpetuity, the lives lost, we offer healing and hope to survivors, and we inspire new generations of activists in the fight against stigma, denial, and hate, for a just future.



San Francisco Ethics Commission
25 Van Ness Avenue, Suite 220
San Francisco, CA 94102

October 5, 2023

Re: Dan Bernal ~ Waiver Request, Ethics Commission meeting October 13, 2023

Dear Commissioners,

I write to you today in support of Dan Bernal's request for a waiver to allow him to accept an offer from the University of California, San Francisco (UCSF) to serve as Vice Chancellor for Community & Government Relations.

I have served as the Chief Executive Officer of the National AIDS Memorial for nearly 15 years. During this time, I have had the opportunity to work with Dan in his capacity both as Chief of Staff to Speaker Emerita Nancy Pelosi and as a member of the National AIDS Memorial Board of Directors. As a member of the LGBTQ+ community and as a person living openly with HIV/AIDS, Dan's authenticity and grace inspire confidence and trust for those of us who work with him.

Of the several projects on which Mr. Bernal and I have collaborated over the years, his strength of character and ability to build strong relationships is best exemplified by our successful efforts to return the AIDS Memorial Quilt to San Francisco. In 2019, Mr. Bernal reached out to me about the possibility of acquiring the AIDS Memorial Quilt from the NAMES Project Foundation in Atlanta and forging a partnership with the U.S. Library of Congress to preserve the Quilt and its ephemera. Mr. Bernal's ability to identify the key needs and challenges associated with the transfer of stewardship of this national treasure between all parties was critical to preserving the Quilt and bringing it home. His deep intuitive sense and awareness of when to step back allowed the process to unfold and move to a place of mutual success. It has been one of the greatest honors of my life to bring the Quilt into the National AIDS Memorial. This would not have been possible were it not for Mr. Bernal's leadership, humility and focus on what is the best for the community.

I can say unequivocally that Mr. Bernal operates at the highest level of integrity and honesty and always places the needs of the community or organization he serves at the forefront of his work. My experience working with Mr. Bernal is not unique to me or to the National AIDS Memorial, and I believe that I can speak for my fellow leaders in the LGBTQ+ and HIV/AIDS service and advocacy community in support of Mr. Bernal's request for this waiver and our hope to see him as the next UCSF Vice Chancellor for Community & Government Relations.

Please feel free to contact me at [REDACTED] should you have any questions.

[REDACTED]
Chief Executive Officer

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Ethics Commission, \(ETH\)](#)
Cc: gayathri.thaikkendiyil@sfgoc.org
Subject: Fwd: Doc Oct 09, 2023, 5.29
Date: Monday, October 9, 2023 5:48:03 PM
Attachments: [Doc Oct 09, 2023, 5.29.pdf](#)

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

Dear Ethics Commission President Lee and Commissioners and Acting Executive Director Gayathri Thaikkendiyil:

Please find enclosed my letter providing public comment on behalf of Dan Bernal's waiver request scheduled for Friday, October 13, 2023 before your Ethics Commission.

Thank you for your consideration, Art Torres

Begin forwarded message:

From: Art Torres [REDACTED]
Date: October 9, 2023 at 5:31:08 PM PDT
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Doc Oct 09, 2023, 5.29

Senator Art Torres (Ret.)

October 10, 2023

Re: Dan Bernal's Waiver Request Under San Francisco Campaign and Governmental Conduct Code Section 3.234(a)(3)

Dear Acting Director Gayathri Thaikkendiyil:

I am writing to support Dan Bernal's request for a waiver from the Ethics Commission that would allow him to accept state government employment as the Vice Chancellor for Community and Government Relations at the University of California, San Francisco (UCSF).

I have known personally and worked with Dan for more than 21 years when I was the statewide elected Chair of the California Democratic Party. Dan had just joined the staff of then House Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi, and he quickly became a trusted and distinguished public servant who rightly earned the respect and trust of many government and political leaders in California.

As a University of California Regent Emeritus and a resident of San Francisco, I know that UCSF is our nation's preeminent public university. Over its history, UCSF has offered world class medical training, research and patient care, especially during the recent COVID-19 pandemic. In addition, UCSF receives the most funding of any public institution from the National Institutes of Health (NIH).

In 2019, as a former State Senator and the statutory Vice Chair of the California Institute for Regenerative Medicine (CIRM), I recommended Dan be appointed by California Senate President Pro Tempore Toni Atkins to serve as the HIV/AIDS Patient Advocate on the Independent Citizens Oversight Committee (ICOC) of CIRM. I was proud to nominate Dan to the board of the world's largest organization dedicated to accelerating stem cell and gene therapy research, treatments and cures to address unmet medical needs.

Dan's presence was sorely needed to serve as a Patient Advocate to ensure that applicants incorporate the principles of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) in their proposals as well as clear plans to involve underserved and disproportionately affected populations in clinical trials. His contributions have been particularly

impactful serving on the Accessibility and Affordability Working Group, which created after California voters approved Proposition 14, to enhance the accessibility and affordability of treatments and cures arising from CIRM-funded research for Californians.

I personally have known Dan to uphold the highest standards of ethics and integrity in both his government and political work. As a member of the CIRM governing board, he has closely adhered to his obligations under the California Political Reform Act and although the California Political Practices Commission has no restrictions on negotiating future employment with state government entities such as UCSF, Dan has gone above and beyond the requirements by voluntarily recusing himself from any matters currently before CIRM that are related to UCSF. Also, as the Chief of Staff for Speaker Emerita Nancy Pelosi he has declined all compensation associated with his CIRM service in accordance with Congressional Ethics rules.

In my personal and professional opinion, no one is more qualified than Dan to serve as Vice Chancellor for Community and Government Relations. His 25-year career in government service, as well as his lived experience as a long-term survivor of HIV, will serve both UCSF and the people of San Francisco as UCSF's growth takes on an even more significant trajectory in medical education, research and patient care.

Lastly, allowing Dan Bernal to accept the highly visible position of UCSF Vice Chancellor for Community and Government Relations would greatly increase the representation of LGBTQ+, Latinx and HIV-positive individuals serving in senior state government roles. Clearly a historic moment.

My gratitude for your consideration of Dan Bernal's waiver request from your Commission.

Sincerely



Senator Art Torres (Ret.)

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Ethics Commission, \(ETH\)](#); [Thaikkendiyil, Gayathri \(ETH\)](#)
Subject: Item #7 Commission Meeting Oct 13, waiver request: Dan E. Bernal
Date: Monday, October 9, 2023 4:01:44 PM
Attachments: [dan bernal waiver letter.docx](#)

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


Please find the attached letter of support of the waiver request by Dan Bernal.
Thank you for your service.

May you be well,

c.

Catherine Dodd PhD, RN [REDACTED] she/her

[REDACTED]
Board Member [REDACTED]
Leadership Council [REDACTED]

Catherine Dodd PhD RN
Former Health Commissioner
Former US DHHS Region IX Director
Former District Director Rep Nancy Pelosi
Former SF Health Service System Director

San Francisco, CA 94131

October 9, 2023

President Yvonne Lee and Commission Members.
Acting Director Thaikkendiyil
San Francisco Ethics Commission <ethics.commission@sfgov.org>
25 Van Ness Ave., Suite 202
San Francisco, CA 94102

RE: Dan Bernal waiver request item #7 Commission Meeting Oct 13

Dear President Lee and Commissioners:

Your work to ensure that ethical decisions are made for San Francisco in many areas are so important and I thank you for your study of the issues that come before you.

I am writing to support Daniel Enrique Bernal's waiver request from Section 3.234(a)(3) of the Campaign and Governmental Conduct Code.

As a former Health Commissioner, San Francisco Health Service System Director, and District Director for Representative Speaker Emerita Nancy Pelosi I have examined and understand the importance of ethical issues especially in government.

I first met Mr. Bernal (Dan) during when I was serving as an appointee of President Clinton as Region IX Director for Health and Human Services. He worked for the Clinton appointee for the Education Lonnie Hancock in the Region and the three of us collaborated on many projects. Dan impressed me with his ability to assess complex situations and make recommendations for how Health & Human Services and Education could work together. After I left that position, I served as Representative Speaker Emerita Pelosi's District Director and recommended to her that she hire Dan as an assistant director. He eventually took my place when I moved on and he has served San Francisco very well since then. During Dan's tenure he learned about the diverse needs of San Francisco and the shining examples of our many programs and services provided by government and nonprofit organizations. My subsequent role as Deputy Director for Health and Human Services for Mayor Newsom allowed me to interface with Dan on many occasions to assist people and programs important to San Francisco's most vulnerable populations.

Dan's life has been devoted to public service. Specifically, Dan is committed to serving San Francisco. I have lived in San Francisco since I attended nursing school at UCSF graduating in 1979, I returned to UCSF for a Masters' Degree (1983) and PhD (2007). I know what an important institution UCSF is to San Francisco and the Bay Area, not only as the largest employer in the City but because of its highly regarded schools of medicine, nursing, pharmacy and dentistry, and because of its ranking among the best health care institutions in the country. Dan too understands the importance of UCSF, not only because of his service on the Health

Commission but because of his work with HIV/AIDS issues over the years and his service as Representative Speaker Emerita Nancy Pelosi.

As a former SF Health Commissioner, I understand the difference between awarding contracts and approving recommendations of Health Department staff. UCSF has long had a partnership with CCSF Department of Public Health and Commissioners were not influenced by relationships – personal or professional in their decision making.

Dan is a highly ethical and highly regarded public servant and deserves to take this position which will further his service to San Francisco. He has the integrity, acumen and dedication to San Francisco needed for the position of Vice Chancellor, Community and Government Relations. This position is a perfect transition from many years of Federal Service to Public Service which allows him to continue to serve San Francisco and San Franciscans using his knowledge of the City & County and his understanding of health systems and services.

I urge you to grant his waiver request.

Sincerely,

Catherine Dodd PhD, RN

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Ethics Commission, \(ETH\)](#); [Thaikkendiyil, Gayathri \(ETH\)](#)
Subject: Letter on behalf of Speaker Emerita Nancy Pelosi re: Public Comment for October 13th Ethics Commission Meeting
Date: Tuesday, October 10, 2023 3:44:10 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[Letter from Speaker Emerita Nancy Pelosi 10.10.23 Request for Waiver.pdf](#)

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

To Acting Executive Director Thaikkendiyil, President Lee and Commissioners:

Please find the enclosed letter from Speaker Emerita Nancy Pelosi regarding Dan Bernal's waiver request that will be considered during the San Francisco Ethics Commission meeting on Friday, October 13, 2023.

Please let me know if you have any additional questions.

Sincerely,
Selina Sun

Selina Sun

Special Assistant & District Scheduler
Speaker Emerita, CA-11

[REDACTED], San Francisco, CA 94103

[Pelosi.house.gov](https://pelosi.house.gov)



NANCY PELOSI
SPEAKER EMERITA

NANCY PELOSI
11TH DISTRICT, CALIFORNIA
SPEAKER EMERITA

WASHINGTON, DC 20515-0508

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-0508

DISTRICT OFFICE:

SAN FRANCISCO FEDERAL BUILDING
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94103
www.pelosi.house.gov

October 10, 2023

San Francisco Ethics Commission
25 Van Ness Avenue, Suite 220
San Francisco, California 94102

Dear Acting Director Thaikkendiyil, President Lee and Commissioners:

Thank you for your leadership to uphold San Francisco's high standards of ethics and integrity.

I am writing in support of my San Francisco Chief of Staff Dan Bernal's request for a waiver from the San Francisco Ethics Commission in order to accept state government employment as Vice Chancellor for Community & Government Relations at the University of California, San Francisco (UCSF).

Throughout his career, Dan has closely observed and complied with government ethics rules at the local, state and federal levels. For example, he has declined the compensation and benefits offered in connection with his Health Commission service in accordance with Congressional Ethics rules. In addition, although Congress has no restrictions regarding future employment with federal, state or local government entities, Dan has gone above and beyond the requirements and voluntarily recused himself from any official Congressional matters involving UCSF. During his entire tenure in my office, Dan has conducted his work with the highest degree of honesty and integrity.

I believe that Dan is uniquely qualified to serve as Vice Chancellor for Community & Government Relations and to support UCSF's mission to advance health in San Francisco and worldwide. During his 25-year career in public service at the federal, state and local levels, Dan has gained extensive knowledge of public policy and legislation, developed strong working relationships with elected officials and government agencies and earned the trust and respect of community leaders. Dan's experience and leadership will be critical for UCSF's efforts to rebuild the Parnassus Heights Campus to meet growing health care demand, preserve St. Francis and St. Mary's Hospitals to serve our community and expand capacity to help those with significant mental and behavioral health needs.

His leadership in this arena is also deeply personal. Dan has lived openly and courageously with HIV for more than 33 years and has a deep personal connection to the mission and values of UCSF. He has shared widely that he would not be alive today without UCSF's leadership since the earliest days of the AIDS epidemic as well as the hard work and dedication of UCSF physicians and researchers whom I hold in high regard such as Dr. Paul Volberding, Dr. Eric Goosby, Dr. Diane Havlir and Dr. Monica Gandhi. Dan's lived experience has inspired his commitment to addressing health equity and improving health outcomes for underserved communities as well as his volunteerism to support people with HIV/AIDS, breast and cervical cancer and other unmet health needs.

Allowing Dan to accept the position of Vice Chancellor for Community & Government Relations represents an extraordinary opportunity both for UCSF and for his professional career. In requesting a waiver from the Ethics Commission, he has demonstrated that his participation in Health Commission matters related to UCSF were minimal and had no impact on the outcome and that serving as Vice Chancellor would fulfill his deeply held aspiration to contribute to the mission and values of UCSF.

Dan has a deep and unwavering commitment to public service and has dedicated his entire career to serving our City, our State and our Nation. I am grateful for Dan's decades of leadership in my Congressional district office and that he has chosen to spend the remainder of his career in state government serving the people of San Francisco at UCSF. While his departure would be a sad and significant loss to my Congressional office, I strongly urge members of the Ethics Commission to approve Dan's waiver request so he may accept the position of UCSF Vice Chancellor for Community & Government Relations.

Thank you for your consideration of Dan Bernal's request for a waiver from the San Francisco Ethics Commission. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you require additional information.

best regards



NANCY PELOSI
Speaker Emerita

From: [Thaikkendiyil, Gayathri \(ETH\)](#)
To: [Ethics Commission, \(ETH\)](#)
Cc: [Canning, Michael \(ETH\)](#)
Subject: FW: MNC Letter of Support for Dan Bernal
Date: Tuesday, October 10, 2023 11:44:24 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[MNC Letter of Support for Dan Bernal.pdf](#)
Importance: High

Hi Ronald,

I am sharing below public comment.

Thanks,
-Gayathri

From: Natasha Zee [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, October 10, 2023 11:33 AM
To: Thaikkendiyil, Gayathri (ETH) <gayathri.thaikkendiyil@sfgov.org>
Cc: Richard Ybarra [REDACTED]
Subject: MNC Letter of Support for Dan Bernal
Importance: High

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

Dear Gayathri,

Attached please find a letter of support from MNC Inspiring Success CEO Richard Ybarra supporting the waiver request for Daniel Enrique Bernal to be considered at the San Francisco Ethics Commissions meeting this Friday, October 13, 2023.

Thank you,
Natasha Zee



Natasha Zee

Executive Assistant

[REDACTED], San Francisco, CA 94110



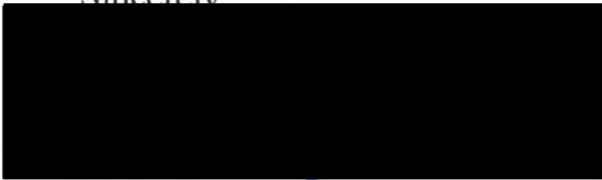
Ms. Gayathri Thaikkendiyil
Acting Executive Director
San Francisco Ethics Commission
25 Van Ness Avenue, Suite 220
San Francisco, CA 94102

I am writing in support of Daniel Enrique Bernal's waiver request before your commission on Friday, October 13, 2023.

Over all the years in his capacity with Speaker Emerita Nancy Pelosi, he has been a community ally, partner and friend to all of us at MNC and every community nonprofit and health organization I can list in San Francisco. We know of Dan's personal health journey and can attest to his having been such an asset to all of us and the Pelosi team over these years. When I heard Dan was being considered for the Vice Chancellor position at UCSF, I immediately thought it was the perfect position for Dan at this point in his career. In my opinion, this is something Dan was born and trained to do, with his usual excellence. The opportunity for Dan and our Latino community, is an outstanding way to celebrate diversity in our great region.

On behalf of MNC, our team and the 40,000 plus residents we serve, I am honored to wholeheartedly offer my support for Daniel Enrique Bernal.

Sincerely,



Richard Ybarra



Phone.



Website.

mncsf.org



Address.



San Francisco, CA 94110

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Ethics Commission, \(ETH\)](#)
Cc: gayathri.thaikkendiyil@sfgov.orgwith
Subject: Letter in Support of Dan Bernal request for waiver
Date: Wednesday, October 11, 2023 2:03:57 PM
Attachments: [Scan 2023-10-11 13.28.56.pdf](#)

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

Dear Ms Thaikkendiyil,

Please add this letter in the Ethics Commission file for support of the Dan Bernal waiver.

Thank you,
Art Agnos

Art Agnos

October 11, 2023

President Yvonne Lee and Members
San Francisco Ethics Commission
25 Van Ness Ave Suite 202

RE: Dan Bernal Waiver Request

Dear President Lee and Commissioners:

As an early participant in the development and supporter of Proposition K in 1993, one year after I left the mayor's office, I have followed the many tough decisions and work of your commission since then.

And this is the first time I have ever communicated a point of view on an issue before you in the Dan Bernal waiver request. As a member of the State Assembly for 12 years, Mayor for 4 years and a Presidential Appointee for 7 years, I have had the opportunity to work with hundreds of top-notch staff people at all three levels of government.

Dan Bernal is quite simply one of the best public servants I have ever encountered. He has demonstrated his integrity and talent in every position he has ever worked in at all levels of government. The private sector has noted this and made him a highly sought after executive recruit for their companies.

But Dan has a love and commitment for public *service* that has led him to choose an executive position with the University of California in San Francisco (UCSF). And that is great news for our city because we need leaders at UCSF who know San Francisco the way Dan Bernal does from the many roles he has played in our city.

Frankly there is an even more important reason for us as San Franciscans. UCSF has magnificent reputation for excellence in healthcare delivery, teaching, and research. Indeed, that is where all my doctors are. That's the "Medical" side, but the "Developer" side has frequently been at odds with the best interests of the neighborhoods of our city. Indeed, as you read this letter, UCSF is being sued by the neighborhood residents after ignoring their pleas to seriously discuss current

plans to add 2.4 million square feet...*the equivalent of the existing Salesforce and Transamerica buildings combined*...to the existing Parnassus neighborhood. This the latest of several past occasions that formal promises not to expand have been violated and neighbors have had to resort to lawsuits to get the attention of the UCSF leadership.

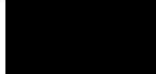
And that is why, it is so important that Dan Bernal become the next Vice Chancellor for Community and Government Relations. With his enormous experience responding to the neighborhoods of San Francisco as a top staffer to Speaker Emeritus Nancy Pelosi and as a San Francisco Health Commissioner, Dan is the perfect candidate to fill that important, high-ranking position.

Quite simply, San Francisco needs him to help facilitate more positive results not only for UCSF... but equally important...for San Francisco as well. This is why this former mayor has joined the current mayor and the President of the Board of Supervisors to support the request for that your commission grant a waiver to allow him to assume this critical position that will significantly strengthen the historical development relationship of UCSF wit San Francisco and our neighborhoods.

Sincerely

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ALL RIGHTS

A small black rectangular redaction box covering a few lines of text.

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Thaikkendiyil, Gayathri \(ETH\); Ethics Commission, \(ETH\)](#)
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: SF Labor Council Letter in Support of Dan Bernal's Waiver Request
Date: Thursday, October 12, 2023 11:51:44 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)
[10-05-23LtrSptBernalWaiver.pdf](#)

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Hello,

Attached please find a letter from the San Francisco Labor Council in support of Dan Bernal's waiver request. Please don't hesitate to contact us with any questions or for more information.

Thank you.

Emily Nelson (she/her)
Communications Coordinator & Senior Assistant
San Francisco Labor Council
[REDACTED]
San Francisco, CA 94109
[REDACTED]





October 5, 2023

Ethics Commission
City and County of San Francisco
Sent via email

Dear Ethics Commissioners,

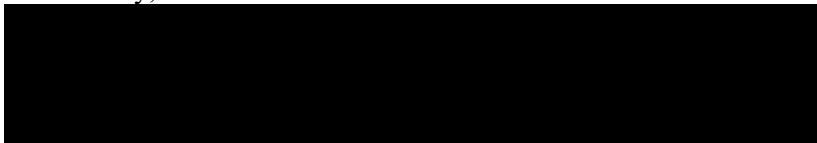
I am writing to express my strong support for Dan Bernal's waiver request, which would enable him to accept the position of UCSF Vice Chancellor for Community and Government Relations, a position Dan would excel at and bring his high standards of ethics and integrity to.

I have known Dan for decades through his work in Speaker Emerita Pelosi's office. Dan has a clear and longstanding commitment to public and community service. Dan would be a perfect fit for the position of Vice Chancellor for Community & Government Relations, bringing his decades of experience working in both high levels of government and with local community members and organizations. As Vice Chancellor for Community & Government Relations he would also bring an increase to the representation and visibility of Latinx and LGBTQ+ communities, and in particular people living with HIV, in senior leadership roles in state government.

As the executive director of the San Francisco Labor Council, I have worked with Dan most closely on labor issues, where he has always shown great support for working families in San Francisco and beyond. I also know that Dan has long been dedicated to improving health and health equity. He has served on the Board of Directors for the AIDS Emergency Fund and Breast Cancer Emergency Fund, Susan B. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation Bay Area Affiliate, San Francisco AIDS Foundation and National AIDS Memorial. Being able to work with UCSF's leadership in the fight against HIV/AIDS and addressing health disparities in underserved communities is a position Dan is uniquely suited for and would bring energy, expertise, and integrity to.

Again, I am in strong support of Dan Bernal's waiver request and have zero concerns or reservations about Dan's strong ethical standards. Please feel free to contact me with any questions.

Sincerely,



Kim Tavaglione
Executive Director

OPEIU 29 AFL-CIO 11

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Ethics Commission, \(ETH\)](#)
Cc: [Thaikkendiyil, Gayathri \(ETH\)](#)
Subject: Public Comment for October 13th Ethics Commission Meeting - Daniel Bernal Waiver Request
Date: Wednesday, October 11, 2023 4:56:14 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)
[image004.png](#)
[Dan Bernal Support Letter.pdf](#)

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

Dear Acting Executive Director Thaikkendiyil, President Lee and Commissioners:

I hope this email finds you well. Please find a letter attached to this email providing public comment for the upcoming Ethics Commission meeting scheduled for Friday, October 13th, 2023, regarding Dan Bernal's waiver request.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to me!

Have a great rest of your evening.



Jackson Nutt-Beers
Public Policy Program Manager
San Francisco Chamber of Commerce
[REDACTED], San Francisco, CA 94104
(E) jnuttbeers@sfchamber.com
Pronouns: [they/them](#)





[REDACTED], San Francisco, CA 94104
tel: [REDACTED] fax: 415.392.0485
sfchamber.com • twitter: @sf_chamber

San Francisco Ethics Commission
25 Van Ness Avenue, Suite 220
San Francisco, CA 94102

Subject: Letter of Support for Dan Bernal's Waiver Request

Dear Members of the San Francisco Ethics Commission,

I am writing this letter on behalf of the San Francisco Chamber of Commerce to express our strong support for the waiver request submitted by Dan Bernal, who is seeking The Ethics Commission's approval to accept the position of Vice Chancellor for Community & Government Relations at the University of California, San Francisco (UCSF). As Chief of Staff in San Francisco for Speaker Emerita Nancy Pelosi, Mr. Bernal has been an invaluable asset to our city and has exhibited an unwavering commitment to public service.

Mr. Bernal's revered career in public service has demonstrated his deep understanding of the complexities of government relations and his ability to connect government institutions, businesses, and the community. His experience as Chief of Staff for Speaker Pelosi has been marked by his dedication to advancing the interests and wellbeing of San Francisco's residents and businesses.

We believe that Mr. Bernal's transition to the role of Vice Chancellor at UCSF will significantly benefit both the university and the broader San Francisco community. His expertise in government and community relations, coupled with his track record of fostering productive collaborations, will be an immense asset in advancing UCSF's mission and promoting mutually beneficial relationships with the business community. This appointment will strengthen the ties between UCSF and local businesses and organizations, fostering economic growth and community development.

In light of these considerations, we respectfully request that the San Francisco Ethics Commission grant Mr. Bernal the waiver to accept the Vice Chancellor position at UCSF. We are confident that he will continue to serve the community with dedication, integrity, and the same unwavering commitment that he has exhibited throughout his career.

Thank you for your attention to this important issue.

Respectfully

[REDACTED]
Rodney Fong
President & CEO
The San Francisco Chamber of Commerce

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Ethics Commission, \(ETH\)](#)
Cc: [Thaikkendiyil, Gayathri \(ETH\)](#)
Subject: Public Comment for October 13th Ethics Commission Meeting - Daniel Bernal Waiver Request
Date: Thursday, October 12, 2023 3:53:39 PM
Attachments: [10_12_23 APIC_LOR UCSF Vice Chancellor.pdf](#)

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

Dear Acting Executive Director Thaikkendiyil, President Lee and Commissioners,

Please find an attached letter providing public comment regarding Daniel Bernal's waiver request that will be considered during the San Francisco Ethics Commission meeting on Friday, October 13, 2023. Please respond if you need more information.

Thank you for your consideration,

Cally

Cally Wong
Executive Director
API Council

[REDACTED]

www.apicouncil.org



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APA Family Support Services
APA Heritage Foundation
API Legal Outreach
ASIAN, Inc.
Asian & Pacific Islander Wellness Center
Asian Pacific American Community Center
Asian Pacific Islander Cultural Center
Asian Law Caucus, Inc.
Asian Neighborhood Design, Inc.
Bayanihan Equity Center
Be Chinatown
Brightline Defense Project
Center for Asian American Media
Charity Cultural Services Center
Chinatown Community Children's Center
Chinatown Community Development Center
Chinatown Media and Arts Collaborative
Chinatown YMCA
Chinese Culture Center of San Francisco
Chinese for Affirmative Action
Chinese Historical Society of America
Chinese Newcomers Service Center
Chinese Progressive Association
Community Youth Center
Donaldina Cameron House
Filipino American Development Foundation
Filipino Community Center
First Voice
Gum Moon/Asian Women Resources Center
Japanese Community Youth Council
Japantown Task Force
Kai Ming Head Start
Kultivate Labs
Manilatown Heritage Foundation
National Japanese American Historical Society
NICOS Chinese Health Coalition
Nihonmachi Street Fair
Northeast Community Credit Union
Northern California Cherry Blossom Festival
North East Medical Services
Richmond Area Multi-Services
Samoan Community Development Center
Self-Help for the Elderly
SF Hep B Free
SOMA Pilipinas
South of Market Community Action Network
Southeast Asian Community Center
Southeast Asian Development Center
Visitacion Valley Asian Alliance
West Bay Pilipino Multi-Service, Inc.
Wu Yee Children's Services

October 12, 2023

VIA EMAIL:

Ms. Gayathri Thaikkendiyil
Acting Executive Director
San Francisco Ethics Commission
25 Van Ness Avenue, Suite 220
San Francisco, CA 94102

RE: Waiver Request Under San Francisco Campaign and Governmental Conduct Code Section 3.234(a)(3)

Dear Director Thaikkendiyil, Commission Chair Lee, and Commissioners,

On behalf of the Asian and Pacific Islander Council of San Francisco (API Council), I respectfully urge you to support Mr. Daniel Enrique Bernal's employment waiver request which will come before you on the October 13, 2023 Ethics Commission meeting.

Dan has served as Speaker Emerita Nancy Pelosi's Chief of Staff and as a member of the San Francisco Health Commission. Dan's extensive career in public service spans over several decades, during which he has consistently demonstrated exceptional leadership, competence, and dedication. His wealth of experience and in-depth understanding of public policy issues has allowed him to make significant contributions to the Asian American Pacific Islander community and beyond. His approachableness fosters a sense of unity within the teams he leads and the communities he serves.

I have had the privilege of working with Dan for over the last 8 years as a collaborative partner in our work since our organization's inception and can personally attest to his unwavering commitment to the San Francisco community.

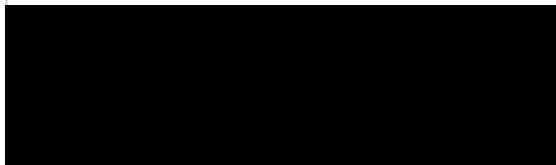
Over the years, Dan has worked with the API Council in bringing Speaker Emerita Pelosi to speak with our 56-member organization annually on complex issues arising within our City as well as providing updates on her continued partnership and work with the Asian and Pacific Islander (API) community. This year, Dan worked with us to bring the Speaker Emerita to the Samoan Community Development Center to support our membership while also working with us to highlight the issues and gaps within the Pacific Islander community. More recently, we had the opportunity to work with Dan in holding a community event to honor Speaker Emerita Pelosi's contributions to the API community. In the past month, Dan worked with us to invite the Speaker Emerita to the Chinatown Media & Arts Collaborative to discuss the arts and welcome its new Executive Director, Joanne Lee.

Dan has continuously dedicated his time and energy to raise awareness about the challenges faced by the API community especially during the height of API hate in recent years. He has shown understanding by not only addressing isolated incidents but has been instrumental in building bridges, fostering dialogue within the community, and working to ensure that all API community members can live safely and with dignity. Dan has actively worked with us to address and lend resources while API businesses in our City's ethnic corridors like Japantown and Chinatown were struggling as well as when our community needed assistance for our senior population. Dan's work on these issues and his unwavering support in bringing the Speaker Emerita to our communities to directly speak to us during this period shows his priority and commitment to us. His integrity to stand up for what's right shows his dedication to bringing people and communities together. Dan has actively engaged with leaders, community partners, and organizations to develop and implement safety measures and provide solutions during our community's darkest times.

I strongly believe that Dan is the ideal fit for the vacant position of Vice Chancellor for Community & Government Relations at the University of California San Francisco (UCSF). This role directly serves San Francisco's communities, including its most vulnerable residents. I have no doubt that Dan's integrity, expertise, unwavering dedication, and tireless work ethic make him an excellent candidate for this position.

Dan's leadership and passion for making a difference are truly notable and he would be a valuable asset to UCSF. I respectfully urge you to support and approve Dan's waiver so that he can accept the Vice Chancellor position and continue his work in supporting San Francisco's community members. Please reach out to me if you have any questions at: cally.wong@apicouncil.org.

Sincerely,



Cally Wong
Executive Director
API Council