



## **URGENT BILLBOARD ACTION ALERT!**

We are urging our members to immediately oppose the nomination of Ryan Brooks to the Planning Commission. Ryan Brooks is a Vice President with CBS Outdoor - a large billboard company operating numerous billboards in San Francisco. His appointment to the Commission would cause serious conflicts of interest regarding billboard issues.

The full Board of Supervisors will hear the Ryan Brooks appointment on Tuesday, March 18th. Please contact members of the Board of Supervisors by email, phone or fax to express your opposition to Ryan Brooks appointment to the Planning Commission. A sample letter and contact information for the Board of Supervisors is listed below.

### **Board of Supervisors Address:**

San Francisco Board of Supervisors  
City Hall  
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, Room 244  
San Francisco, CA 94102-4689

### **By Phone, Fax or Email:**

Supervisor Jake McGoldrick (Dist. 1)  
(415) 554-7410 - voice  
(415) 554-7415 - fax  
Jake.McGoldrick@sfgov.org

Supervisor Michela Alioto-Pier (Dist. 2)  
415) 554-7752 - voice  
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Michela.Alioto-Pier@sfgov.org

Supervisor Aaron Peskin, President (Dist. 3)  
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Aaron.Peskin@sfgov.org

Supervisor Carmen Chu (Dist. 4)  
(415) 554-7460 - voice  
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Supervisor Ross Mirkarimi (Dist. 5)  
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Supervisor Chris Daly (Dist. 6)  
(415) 554-7970 - voice  
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Supervisor Sean Elsbernd (Dist. 7)  
(415) 554-6516 - voice  
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Supervisor Bevan Dufty (Dist. 8)  
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Supervisor Tom Ammiano (Dist. 9)  
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Supervisor Sophie Maxwell (Dist. 10)  
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(415) 554-7674 - fax  
Sophie.Maxwell@sfgov.org

Supervisor Gerardo Sandoval (Dist. 11)  
(415) 554-6975 - voice  
(415) 554-6979 - fax  
Gerardo.Sandoval@sfgov.org

**See sample letter on next page . . .**

[www.sfbeautiful.org](http://www.sfbeautiful.org)

**Sample Letter:**

San Francisco Board of Supervisors  
City Hall, Room 244  
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place  
San Francisco, CA 94102

**Re: Mayor's Appointment of Ryan Brooks to the San Francisco Planning Commission**

Dear Supervisors:

I am extremely concerned about Mayor Gavin Newsom's appointment of Ryan Brooks to the San Francisco Planning Commission and I write to strongly oppose his confirmation. I feel that Mr. Brooks will be unable to serve on the Planning Commission without generating a significant conflict of interest in a number of areas.

Mr. Brooks is employed as the Western Region Vice-President of Public Affairs for CBS Outdoor. Among other things, CBS Outdoor is a purveyor of outdoor advertising and has a significant number of billboards and other outdoor advertising in San Francisco. Those billboards are directly governed and permitted by the Planning Department.

Pursuant to the City Charter the Planning Commission has the jurisdiction to approve prior to issuance "[all] permits and licenses dependent on, or affected by, the Planning Code administered by the Planning Department." The Commission also sets the priorities for the agency through its approval of Planning Code changes, the agency's annual budget, and the work program staffing within the agency. Due to the 2002 passage of Proposition G, the "No New Billboards" measure, the regulation and enforcement of billboards has become an important priority for the Planning Department, its enforcement team and the Commission.

The Planning Department is the city agency charged with permitting and enforcement of billboards. In my opinion, Mr. Brooks should not become a member of the Planning Commission because as an employee of and local representative for CBS Outdoor - one of the most prominent billboard companies in the city - he would have a significant conflict of interest on decisions involving individual billboards, billboard regulations and legislation, and the Department's budget and staffing priorities.

For example, the Planning Department is currently working towards the removal of all illegal billboards in the city. Mr. Brooks' employer, CBS Outdoor, has a large number of billboard permits with the Planning Department. The Department has also issued a number of notices of violation, a number of which remain outstanding, to CBS Outdoor for billboards that violate San Francisco's planning laws. Further, CBS Outdoor is also a named plaintiff in a lawsuit against the City that opposes the public release of Planning Department documents regarding a survey of billboard locations produced by the Department. Mr. Brooks' employer, from which he derives his income, has placed significant obstacles in the path of the Planning Department's regulation of billboards.

It is my position that if Mr. Brooks becomes a member of the Planning Commission he will have to recuse himself from any discussions or votes on Department decisions regarding individual billboards and billboard regulations. He will also have to recuse himself from the Commission's budgetary decision-making as well as Commission votes on work program staffing and enforcement priorities. Mr. Brooks will be unable to vote on the most significant issues that come before the Commission due to conflicts of interest, and therefore he should not be confirmed as a Commissioner.

I strongly urge the Board of Supervisors to reject the appointment of Ryan Brooks to the Planning Commission. Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,

Your Name Here