



**COUNTY OF SAN MATEO**  
Inter-Departmental Correspondence  
Board of Supervisors



**Date:** November 25, 2015  
**Board Meeting Date:** December 15, 2015  
**Special Notice / Hearing:** None  
**Vote Required:** Majority

**To:** Honorable Board of Supervisors

**From:** Supervisor Groom  
Supervisor Slocum

**Subject:** Appointments to the Commission on the Status of Women

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Recommendation for appointments to the Commission on the Status of Women:

- A) Shweta Bhatnagar term ending December 31, 2016;
- B) Darya Larizadeh term ending December 31, 2016;
- C) Stacie Furia term ending December 31, 2017;
- D) Akala Francis term ending December 31, 2018;
- E) Janet Dulsky term ending December 31, 2018;
- F) Vivian Lino term ending December 31, 2018; and
- G) Lisa Williams term ending December 31, 2019.

**BACKGROUND:**

The Commission is charged with the responsibility of assessing the needs of women, girls, and families in the County. And in addition, it acts as a resource and makes recommendations to the Board of Supervisors annually.

Akala Francis, a resident of East Palo Alto, is the Volunteer Coordinator and Development Assistant at the Ecumenical Hunger Program. Akala is an experienced intercultural facilitator and coordinator who is committed to the empowerment and development of young girls and women of color. She has been a volunteer with New Creations Home Ministries and Girls to Women.

Janey Dulsky, a resident of Foster City, is an experienced technology marketing professional who has advocated for a "green economy" through her involvement with an organization called Women in Cleantech & Sustainability. Janet seeks to explore the issues of medical access, health care, and support for women in San Mateo County.

Shweta Bhatnagar, a resident of San Mateo, is currently the Government Affairs Officer at the San Mateo County Transit District and has nearly 15 years of professional experience in federal, state, and local government. She served as a community advisory member for the Women's Research Institute at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas and is actively involved with the Redwood City Chamber of Commerce. Shweta would like to utilize her combined experience in public transit, commerce, and government to explore the issues of workforce development and access to transportation for women.

Darya Larizadeh, a resident of East Palo Alto, is a research consultant at the Chief Justice Earl Warren Institute on Law and Social Policy at the UC Berkeley, School of Law. She is an attorney and researcher who has worked diligently on women's rights issue at a variety of organizations including Equal Rights Advocates, Women's Environment and Development Organization, Institute for Justice and Democracy in Haiti, and the Karnataka State Women's Commission in India. She has impacted and transformed the lives of women, both locally and globally.

Stacie Furia, a resident of San Mateo, is the Senior Director of National Evaluation at BUILD and a sociologist with over 10 years of research experience. Her doctoral work included an emphasis in feminist and gender studies and she has offered her support to a number of organizations, including: the AIDS Lifecycle, United Nations Association, and California LGBT Veteran's Leadership Forum. She would like to use her skills to serve San Mateo County more broadly and support underrepresented members of the community.

Vivian Lino, a resident of San Mateo, is a department coordinator at Mills-Peninsula Health Services where she has experience in marketing, health-care customer service, and event planning. As a Hispanic, woman of color she would like to highlight the diversity of San Mateo County and actively serve the multicultural community. She is committed to civic engagement and volunteers locally at Samaritan House in San Mateo.

Lisa Williams, a resident of Half Moon Bay, is a Sheriff's Captain who currently serves as the North County Operations Division Commander. Captain Williams began her law enforcement career as a clerk at the Sheriff's Office 30 years ago and worked her way through the ranks. She has been a mentor for women in law enforcement and has a strong interest in women's issues countywide. When she was commander of the Women's Correctional Center she implemented cost effective, gender specific, and gender responsive programming for female inmates, which included education, rehabilitation, recovery services, and personal development.

### **DISCUSSION:**

These appointments contribute to the 2025 Shared Vision statement of a Collaborative Community: Our diverse population works well together to build strong communities, effective government and a prosperous economy. Civic engagement – including voting,

public service, charitable giving, volunteerism, and participation in public discussions of important issues – is uniformly high among the diverse population of San Mateo County.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

None.