



COUNTY OF SAN MATEO
Inter-Departmental Correspondence
Board of Supervisors



Date: September 3, 2014
Board Meeting Date: October 7, 2014
Special Notice / Hearing: None
Vote Required: Majority

To: Honorable Board of Supervisors

From: Supervisor Dave Pine
Supervisor Carole Groom

Subject: Appointments to the San Mateo County Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual,
Transgender, and Queer (LGBTQ) Commission

RECOMMENDATION:

Recommendation for appointments to the San Mateo County LGBTQ Commission,
terms ending June 30, 2016:

1. Richard Faust, Pacifica
2. Alex Neumann, Atherton (Youth Representative)
3. Kate MacKay, South San Francisco
4. Jennifer Walter, Half Moon Bay
5. Jason Galisatus, Redwood City

Recommendation for appointments to the San Mateo County LGBTQ Commission,
terms ending June 30, 2017:

1. Dr. Jei Africa, San Mateo
2. Gabe Garcia, Portola Valley
3. Stan Kiino, San Mateo
4. Glenda Savage, East Palo Alto
5. Lynn Schuette, Pacifica
6. Stevie Stallmeyer, Menlo Park

BACKGROUND:

On June 3, 2014 the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors adopted a resolution establishing the San Mateo County Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer Commission. It appears that the Commission is the first such county or city commission specifically focused on the LGBTQ community

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The LGBTQ Commission was established to promote programs and policies that foster the well-being and civic participation of LGBTQ individuals in San Mateo County. Potential areas of focus include:

- Bringing greater recognition and visibility to the LGBTQ community in San Mateo County by supporting such events as the County's Pride celebration.
- Reducing harassment and bullying of LGBTQ youth in local middle schools and high schools.
- Developing policy recommendations to improve outcomes for underserved and at-risk segments of the LGBTQ population, including youth, communities of color, non-English speakers, seniors, and immigrants.
- Promoting transgender inclusion among private and public entities in San Mateo County including access to health care and to gendered spaces such as bathrooms and shelters.
- Recommending initiatives to support LGBTQ families with children.
- Taking positions pertaining to federal, state and local policies, programs, and procedures, and any legislation affecting LGBTQ individuals.

Since the creation of the Commission, county staff, under the direction of the Human Resources Department, conducted extensive outreach and recruitment to fill the Commission seats.

A meeting of community stakeholders was held on July 9, 2014 to solicit input on the commissioner recruitment and selection process. Applications for the vacancies were opened on July 14, 2014 and accepted through August 13, 2014.

Fifty county residents submitted applications to serve on the LGBTQ Commission and 29 were selected by a screening committee comprised of community stakeholders for interviews. Candidate interviews were subsequently held on August 26 and August 29, 2014 by a panel comprised of Supervisor Pine, Supervisor Groom and Kerry Lobel, the Executive Director of Puente de la Costa Sur who has substantial LGBTQ policy expertise at both the national and local levels.

Given the number and quality of the applicants, the interview panel recommends increasing the number of commissioners on the LGBTQ Commission from 9 to 11. Eleven applicants have been recommended to serve as the founding members of the new LGBTQ Commission. The appointment of the recommended applicants is contingent on the Board of Supervisors' approval of a resolution that is also on the agenda for this meeting that expands the number of LGBTQ Commissioners from 9 to 11.

The Commission is slated to hold its first meeting at a date to be determined in late September or early October 2014.

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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:

Resources to staff and support the Commissions' work will be determined once the goals and priorities of the Commission have been established. Currently, required staff support is estimated not to exceed 0.5 FTE.