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Years of Better Public Spaces

March 18, 2021

Supervisor Connie Chan
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place,
City Hall, Room 244
San Francisco, CA 94102-4689

Dear Supervisor Chan,

San Francisco Parks Alliance (SFPA) wholeheartedly supports your call for increased transparency and accountability into city funding. Having ourselves been victimized by the corruption scandal at the Department of Public Works, we welcome the effort by the Board of Supervisors to address and rectify processes that have allowed city corruption to continue for so long.

We have always followed the city's procedures around public-private partnerships and we were therefore both surprised and disappointed by your recent public statements questioning the work and integrity of the Parks Alliance, particularly as neither you nor any member of your staff have contacted us directly. We will sit down with you at any time, in a public or private forum, to answer any questions you have about our work. Your public attacks were particularly disheartening given that our volunteers and staff have spent hundreds of hours supplying information to government agencies to assist their investigations into city corruption and pay-to-play politics. And contrary to your statements, San Francisco Parks Alliance has not been accused of any wrongdoing.

In addition to answering your questions, we would appreciate the opportunity to share more about our history and the citywide impact of our work, as there have been misstatements and outright falsehoods in your public comments. To that end, a copy of our 50-year anniversary impact report is available at: sfparksalliance.org/reports-and-financials.

Of more immediate import and concern, however, is that we are currently fundraising for the Richmond Playground. We have always enjoyed and, more importantly, relied upon the partnership of the District Supervisor as we invest in playgrounds and open spaces in our city. Without that leadership and support, our efforts would be far more challenging. Please confirm in writing whether or not you would like us to continue supporting the Richmond Playground; if we do not hear from you, we will assume that we no longer have your support and will suspend our work until your concerns have been fully addressed.

Our mission is to champion, transform, and activate parks and public spaces throughout the city, and we have been incredibly successful in this mission. Throughout our 50-year history, Parks Alliance has raised funding for San Francisco public parks and open spaces with private dollars equaling over \$100,000,000. Projects such as Washington Square Park, Panhandle Playground, McLaren Playground, Alice Chalmers Playground, and many more playgrounds throughout the city would not be possible without the funding and support of San Francisco Parks Alliance. We have also invested in Eagle Plaza, Stevenson Alley, and many of San Francisco's tiled staircases and community gardens. Public spaces in San Francisco would look very different today without the hard work of the San Francisco Parks Alliance and its many supporters.

Given our history of good works on behalf of this city, we would have hoped that a San Francisco Supervisor would reach out to us first before blindsiding us with false accusations and calumnies. We have done nothing wrong and are therefore confident that we will come out with a clean bill of health following any city investigation. When that occurs, we hope and trust that you will retract your previous statements regarding our integrity, as we look forward to partnering with you in the future to make parks and playgrounds in D1 enjoyable and accessible for all.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Drew', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Drew Becher
CEO
San Francisco Parks Alliance

CC: Mayor London Breed