

URBAN FORESTRY COUNCIL

August 4, 2008

Board of Supervisors
Government Audit and Oversight Committee
City and County of San Francisco

Re: Urban Forestry
Council Membership
Amendment

Dear Supervisor:

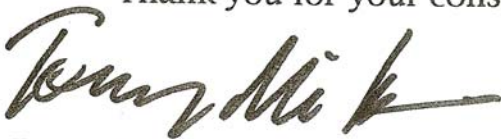
It has been the consensus of Urban Forestry Council members that the proposal to change the number and terms of the Council membership is simply a solution in search of a problem. The Council has a unique mandate to advise the Board of Supervisors about forestry issues and to recommend trees for landmark designation.

But, the latest legislation -- eleven voting members, including two representatives of Departments, and four advisory members -- is acceptable under the circumstances. It will still be possible to call upon the experience and professionalism of Department representatives and a broad selection of stakeholders to advise on urban forest topics for the city of San Francisco.

Under this latest proposal the Council can still operate with a committee structure and efficiently attend to initiatives to make San Francisco more of a Green City. Also, the Council has been diligent in improving meeting attendance and reducing the number of unnecessary committee meetings.

As stated, the Council can accept the membership changes and agree to the proposed amendment.

Thank you for your consideration.



Terry Milne
Chair, Urban Forestry Council