



**SPUR**

San Francisco | San Jose | Oakland

September 17, 2019

San Francisco Planning Commission  
1650 Mission Street, Suite 400  
San Francisco, CA 94103

**RE: September 19, 2019, Item C.6: Planning Director Desired Qualifications**

Dear Planning Commissioners:

Thank you for the opportunity to weigh in with priorities for San Francisco's next planning director. SPUR has been very appreciative of the chance to work with John Rahaim over his long tenure. He has been a rational and thoughtful voice for good planning, and he has been willing to learn and evolve along with the ever-changing city.

San Francisco is a unique and special city, not only because of its physical form but also for the dynamic and interesting mix of people who have been attracted here over time. In turn, we need a planning director with extraordinary capabilities, who can exhibit leadership on controversial planning topics and navigate San Francisco's infamous land use politics.

San Francisco needs a planning director:

- Who can balance neighborhood, citywide and regional interests
- Who understands that growth near transit is needed *and* that pursuing anti-displacement strategies is critical
- Who can balance the visionary aspects of this critical role with being a good administrator who can work to rationalize our complicated and time-intensive planning system

Some of the specific planning ideas SPUR would like to see move forward in the coming years include:

- launching a new set of area plans for San Francisco, especially in the western neighborhoods;
- adding more trees and green space across the city to improve the quality of life and mitigate urban heat island effect; and
- reforming the approvals and permitting process to help produce housing more quickly.

We look forward to working with you and the next planning director to bring these and other ideas to fruition.

Sincerely,



Kristy Wang  
Community Planning Policy Director

CC: John Rahaim, Planning  
SPUR Board of Directors