



SAN FRANCISCO PLANNING DEPARTMENT

December 1, 2011

Supervisor Scott Wiener
Board of Supervisors
City and County of San Francisco
City Hall, Room 244
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place
San Francisco, CA 94102

Dear Supervisor Wiener:

Thank you for taking the time to transmit five memoranda to the Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) that outline your concerns and your proposed modifications to the draft ordinances to revise Articles 10 and 11 of the Planning Code. While your memos raise important concerns, we feel that your concerns may stem from a lack of understanding of this Commission's goals for and approach to the revised Articles 10 and 11.

The HPC has been working to revise Articles 10 and 11 since its inception in January, 2009. The current revisions were drafted by this Commission over the course of a series of public hearings held between July, 2010 and November, 2011. The City Attorney's office has reviewed the proposed amendments and has approved them as-to-form. Throughout this process, the goal of this Commission has been to focus on procedural – rather than substantive – changes that will provide predictability and efficiency for property owners, stakeholders, and the public. The current draft represents the collective work of the HPC as well as many in the preservation and development communities.

The HPC feels that substantive topics, such as language that addresses economic hardship, a requirement for community balloting prior to historic district designation, or the creation of local interpretations of the Secretary of the Interior's *Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties*, merit additional research and further discussion prior to adoption. The HPC is committed to working with you and the community on these important issues once the procedural work of updating Articles 10 and 11 has been completed.

The Historic Preservation Commission would very much like to continue to work directly with you to better understand your concerns, and to develop productive, appropriate, and effective solutions. With that in mind, the Commission invites you to engage in a discussion with a focus on specific case studies or examples in order to prevent misunderstanding about perceived problems with the existing system.

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The HPC respectfully requests that if and when you introduce at the Board of Supervisors amendments to the proposed Ordinance drafted by this Commission, that you refer the amendments back to the HPC for its re-review.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Charles Edwin Chase". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Charles Edwin Chase, President
Historic Preservation Commission

cc: Planning Commission