

BRIGHTLINE DEFENSE PROJECT

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August 7, 2009

Human Rights Commission
25 Van Ness Avenue, Suite 800
San Francisco, CA 94102-6033

Re: *Appointment of New Commission Director Theresa Sparks*

Dear Commissioners:

Brightline strongly supports the appointment of Theresa Sparks as Director of the Human Rights Commission. We find Ms. Sparks to be a committed and experienced advocate for the rights of the underserved who will fight on behalf of vulnerable communities.

We also call upon Ms. Sparks to address what has quickly become the City's most important human rights issue: unemployment of San Francisco residents, particularly in disadvantaged communities such as Bayview-Hunters Point, the Mission, Chinatown, and the Western Addition.

Brightline asks that Ms. Sparks outline an Action Plan to address the issue of local hiring in San Francisco within her first 100 days of service. Ms. Sparks will quickly learn what Commissioners and San Francisco Supervisors have begun to understand, that the City's current local hiring policy as found in Administrative Code, Chapter 6, has over the past several years been removed from most city contracts by the City Attorney's office for fear of the legality of that provision.

Commissioners, it is your duty to make Ms. Sparks aware of the need to bring Administrative Code section 6.22, which requires that all contractors doing business with the City endeavor to hire no less than 50% San Francisco residents, back to San Francisco's current and future public works contracts, especially as we seek to build a new, green economy in this city. We ask that Ms. Sparks make reinstatement of Chapter 6 in city contracting the cornerstone of her Local Hiring Action Plan.

Bold leadership will create increased opportunities for San Francisco residents, especially if Ms. Sparks works with community and legal advocates to build on the audacious local hiring steps taken by cities such as Cleveland, Ohio, measures that have survived the types of legal challenges that concern the San Francisco City Attorney's office.

Mayor Newsom and the Board of Supervisors are on record as supporting jobs for San Francisco residents, particularly economically disadvantaged residents, on San Francisco-funded projects. We look forward to working with the Commission and Ms. Sparks to help make that vision a reality.

Sincerely,



Joshua Arce
Executive Director

CC: Mayor Gavin Newsom, San Francisco Board of Supervisors, City Attorney Dennis Herrera