

Member, Board of Supervisors District 6

City and County of San Francisco

JANE KIM

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PRESS STATEMENT FROM SUPERVISOR JANE KIM "The New San Francisco Police Chief Should NOT Be Chosen in Secret"

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San Francisco – "The San Francisco Police Commission is in the process of forwarding three names to Mayor Ed Lee – a short list from which he will chose a new chief. Mayor Ed Lee should release the names and ask the public to comment and participate. Choosing the new chief in full view of the public will make the public safer – of this there is no doubt. In order to fully embrace community policing – we actually need to include the community, including soliciting their input in the choice of a new chief.

This is a new best practice emerging across the nation. Los Angeles, Chicago, Phoenix, Memphis, San Antonio and Fort Worth have all taken this step of announcing finalist names publicly to encourage transparency and greater community participation.

The simple fact is that the public's business is best conducted in public. And there can be no more important public business right now than the choice of a new chief to make our city safer, to continue the reform of the police department and to make sure every community is treated with dignity and respect.

Mayor Lee has the right and power to release the names with the consent of the candidates and he should use this power to make sure the public has full confidence in this important decision.

Simply because this secret process has been used in the past does not make it right for today. When it comes to making San Francisco safer the status quo is no longer good enough. We must embrace smart reform, stating with how we choose our next chief."