

President, Board of Supervisors
District 8



City and County of San Francisco

RAFAEL MANDELMAN

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Board President Rafael Mandelman Appoints Malea Chavez, Elizabeth Macdonald, and Joel Koppel to Serve on the San Francisco Planning Commission

San Francisco, CA — Board President Rafael Mandelman nominates Malea Chavez, Elizabeth Macdonald, and Joel Koppel to be appointed to the San Francisco Planning Commission.

“Appointing Planning Commissioners is one of the most important things Board Presidents may do during their term,” **said Board President Mandelman**, “Happily, many excellent individuals were willing to be considered in our process. Malea, Elizabeth and Joel will each bring unique backgrounds, perspectives and skills to the Commission, and I am confident that as a group they will ably represent the Board of Supervisors on this most consequential body.”

Malea Chavez currently serves as Chief Program Officer at the Mission Economic Development Agency (MEDA), where she leads community program strategy. A San Francisco native raised in the Mission District, she previously served as CEO of the Community Food Bank of Southern Arizona, Executive Director of The Women’s Building, and Deputy Director of the Homeless Prenatal Program. She has practiced housing and family law for decades and is a graduate of the UC College of the Law, San Francisco.

“As a second generation San Franciscan raising a third generation San Franciscan, it is an honor to serve on the Planning Commission,” **said Malea Chavez**, “This role is a critical part of the decision-making process that shapes the physical, economic, and environmental future of our community.”

Elizabeth Macdonald is a Professor of City and Regional Planning at UC Berkeley, where she has taught for 22 years and served as Chair of the of the City and Regional Planning Department, the Landscape Architecture and Environmental Planning Department, and Associate Dean for the College of Environmental Design. Prior to academia, she practiced architecture with small Bay Area firms on residential, commercial, and institutional projects including the Market-Octavia

Neighborhood Plan, the Transbay Redevelopment Project Area Design for Development, and the Better Streets Plan. A 30-year San Francisco resident, she is the author of five books and has written extensively on urban design and planning.

“The Planning Commission plays a key role in making city planning work for San Francisco, our beautiful and magnificent city with its unique urban form and wealth of diversity” **said Elizabeth Macdonald**, “I will be honored to serve on it and contribute what I can as the community grapples with what it wants to be going forward and how it wants to respond to the immediate challenges and opportunities in front of it.”

Joel Koppel is an electrician by training, spending 24 years in electrical construction, rising through the electrical trades with International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) Local 6 after graduating from Lowell High School, before moving into business development, project management, and government affairs. Joel previously served eight years on the SF Planning Commission, first appointed by Mayor Ed Lee in 2016 and reappointed by Mayor London Breed in 2020, including a term as Commission President.

“I’m honored and humbled by the nomination from President Mandelman.” **said Joel Koppel**, “Having previously served on the Planning Commission, I have tremendous respect for its important role in shaping San Francisco’s future.”

Nominees must first be considered at the Board of Supervisors’ Rules Committee, and will subsequently require approval by the full Board of Supervisors to be confirmed.

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