

Office of the Mayor
City & County of San Francisco



Gavin Newsom

September 18, 2006

Departmental Directors and Commission Secretaries:

In a continuing effort to increase governmental efficiency and performance, I want to ensure consistent attendance of appointed representatives to our City and County commissions. I believe that consistent commissioner attendance is necessary for each commission to function well and effectively advance departmental goals. Appointments to commissions have been made by my office in order to allow for diverse viewpoints to be represented, so each commissioner's participation is essential.

Along those lines, my office is interested in establishing baseline standards of commissioner attendance across all city commissions:


- All commissioner absences be 'excused absences,' in which a commission secretary or the appropriate departmental representative is notified in advance of the meeting about the absence.
- A working goal of 100% attendance for commissioners, which recognizes the critical importance of each commissioner's attendance at meetings. As a practical matter, I believe it is appropriate to ask that each commissioner have at least 90% attendance to their regular commission's meetings—recognizing that illnesses or family emergencies arise very occasionally.
- In order to monitor efforts toward this goal, I ask that commission secretaries submit an annual report to my office at the end of each fiscal year detailing commission attendance.
- Moreover, I ask commission secretaries contact my commissions liaison if a commissioner misses a meeting without contacting the department in advance, or when a commissioner has missed three meetings in a fiscal year, so that my office may contact that commissioner.

Please consider incorporating these standards into your commission's policies and procedures as appropriate.

Each individual commissioner's experiences and skills are highly valued, and consistent attendance allows for the full potential of each commission to be utilized. Meeting attendance is also one of the many factors my office uses to consider future appointments of individuals currently serving on commissions, so detailed attendance records will be helpful to our appointment process.

Should you have any questions about this letter, please contact Wade Crowfoot at 554-6640.

Yours sincerely,



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