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Mayoral Questionnaire

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Mayoral Candidate Questionnaire

1. Do you believe the city's Ethics Commission is successful at its mission, or do you tend to agree with the Civil Grand Jury's conclusion that it is a "Sleeping Watchdog." What reforms will you support to strengthen the disclosure and enforcement of the city's ethics and good government laws?

I think our City's Ethics, Elections and Campaign Finance laws are amongst the best and most far reaching in the country. They are the outgrowth of progressive and good government battles to limit campaign corruption. But unless those laws are enforced, the results will be uneven and unfair.

2. Will you vote in favor or against Proposition F to allow the Ethics Commission and Board to change the law on campaign consultants without voter approval?

I oppose Proposition F. Any changes to our ethics or campaign laws should be approved by the voters, not by elected officials or the Ethics Commission.

3. Will you vote in favor or against Proposition E to allow the Board to amend or repeal ballot measures approved by voters from the mayor or four Board members?

I oppose Prop E. I believe it is wrong to supplant the voters' right to decide issues placed before the electorate. It is a very dangerous policy because it gives the Board of Supervisors and the Mayor the authority to disregard what the voters' decided and make unilateral changes.

4. Will you add funding for the Ethics Commission meetings to be televised like other city commissions?

While I am generally in favor of televising and providing public access to hearing, I am not certain that televising the Ethics Commission meetings would result in better outcomes. But I certainly would be open to it as one of the means of achieving greater accountability.

5. Do you believe the city needs to strengthen protections for city worker whistleblowers against retaliation, as the Civil Grand Jury recommended?

Yes, I am a firm believer in the whistleblower program and that it is one of the best ways to ferret out problems in city government.

6. Will you introduce a measure to ban contributions from businesses that benefit financially from City decisions, including tax benefits, zoning variances and other benefits similar to the voter-approved Proposition J (November 2000) passed but later altered?

Yes, I would certainly support this.

7. Do you support the Ethics Commission's proposal to amend the city's pay-to-play law to allow contributions from contractors with the Redevelopment Agency, Treasure Island and other agencies because they claim the mayor and Board don't know who the contractors are?

No, I do not. This proposal makes little sense given that the mayor and the Board should be prohibited from receiving contributions from contractors with these agencies.

8. The Ethics Commission won amendments to the lobbyist law that means fewer businesses have to disclose their efforts. Do you believe that people with special access like former mayor Willie Brown or Rose Pak should have to register and report on their contacts with city officials?

This question is somewhat vague, since it does not specific what the named individuals have done in terms of contacting and/or lobbying city officials. But I believe that *all* lobbyists should have to report their activities, and that lobbyists include anyone who is paid to advocate for or against a particular position to an elected official.

9. What steps will you take to ensure that your appointees attend commission meetings, file required public economic disclosure statements, and adhere to the city's Sunshine Ordinance? What standard will you use?

I would require all appointees to attend commission meetings and those who do not would be asked to resign or terminated. I would require all appointees to file public economic disclosure statements and those who do not would be

asked to resign or terminated. All appointees would be required to follow the City's Sunshine Ordinance.

10. What steps have you taken to improve transparency in city government and enforce good government laws?

I have always responded to any Sunshine request and have always been transparent. You can see our office's website at www.sfpUBLICDEFENDER.org. I have published an annual report for each year I have been in office, and provide regular reports on outcomes in specific cases handled by the Public Defender. I believe that transparency in City government is the key to effective, efficient and honest government.

(You may add additional pages to respond)