

## CitiReport Questionnaire

### Bevan Dufty

#### Foreward

I would like to start this questionnaire with an acknowledgment of the important advice and counsel provided to me by CitiReport's Founding Editor, Larry Bush. When I started working as a board aide to Supervisor Susan Leal, following her appointment in June of 1993, Larry educated me about so much history and so many issues.

In addition, in an era before disclosures were readily available on-line, Larry published lobbyist reports and championed many issues that have evolved to advance transparency and government accountability.

While we have further to go, I believe that Larry's leadership almost a generation ago heralded these times where much more information is available, giving us the tools to hold officeholders, and those who seek to influence their decisions, accountable.

- 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?**

Both.

First, I would like to meet with the members of the 2011 Civil Grand Jury to discuss their findings and recommendations with respect to the Ethics Commission.

Over my years in government, I have met frequently with the citizens who dedicate hundreds of hours to act as stewards for the Civil Grand Jury process. Their role and purpose is neither to make me comfortable as Supervisor or Mayor, nor to commend me. So I always strive to be open and not reactive when there is criticism.

Much of my preparation to become Mayor stems from my work as Director of Neighborhood Services – I know that an angry customer is my best asset.

So I welcome the chance to engage the Civil Grand Jury members to consider their recommendations with the involvement of stakeholders, such as journalists, past Ethics Commission members and others from our legal and academic community.

As a Mayoral candidate, I've been impressed with the audit functions performed by the Ethics Commission staff. They handle voluminous information in qualifying candidates for public financing.

However, we need to expand the audit team so that there can be appropriate reviews of campaigns that do not have public financing.

I understand that there is an effort to improve the collaboration between the Ethics Commission and the Sunshine Ordinance Task Force.

While Ethics Investigations are heard in closed session, Sunshine cases have been referred via an open process. So it does not make sense to simply report that a case has been dismissed. Instead, this should be handled in an open process that lets the public know when suggestions have been communicated by the Commission to those receiving complaints.

I'm hopeful that this might improve the trust that the Commission is taking these matters seriously and is ensuring better compliance with Sunshine laws, even where a case does not proceed.

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

Voting Yes

- 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?**

Voting Yes

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

Yes. We should have the same high ratings enjoyed by the old Taxi Commission!

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

Yes.

I have had extensive experience referring matters to the Controller's Whistleblower program. They provide an important tool and avenue of recourse. I've been generally impressed but remain surprised how few matters are referred.

There should be better marketing of this public service and I'm advised that the Controller's Office is taking steps to strengthen the service provided and the protections for whistleblowers, which is essential to its success.

- 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?**

San Franciscans must never doubt that city decisions are made based on policy merits. As Mayor I will work with community leaders, advocates, and department leaders to improve our disclosure and conflict of interest laws.

- 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?**

I'm comfortable with the current process.

- 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?**

I believe everyone should play by the same rules. Except for State Court rulings, I believe that attorneys and non-legal representatives should abide by the same disclosure requirements, although I recognize this isn't possible.

- 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?**

As you know, Commissioners provide citizen oversight and input on our governance. Mayors and the Board of Supervisors are always looking for balance -- sometimes it is philosophical, as exemplified by split appointment commissions such as Planning, Permit Appeals, and Police, among others.

Other times the balance factors ethnic diversity, labor or business or small business representation, neighborhoods, gender or sexual orientation and gender identity.

These appointees bring varied experiences, but it isn't the case that everyone brings the same training or experience as it relates to transparency, openness with the press and bloggers, governance, labor-management, finance, and personnel, among other desirable skills and experience.

I have spoken with San Francisco State University and Dr. Sandra Hernandez of the San Francisco Foundation about my interest in developing mandatory training and certification for Commission nominees/appointees within six months of beginning service.

I would also like to extend this training approach to the boards and directors of nonprofits receiving over \$100,000 in city funding. We have seen instances on the prior boards of both SF Pride and Lyon-Martin, among many nonprofits, where bad decisions have been made or there has not been openness with the press and public.

I fully support the existing training but these PowerPoint presentations only scratch the surface. We have the ability to ensure that there is the breadth of skills and sensitivities in our appointees that characterize great City Commissioners - those who are open in their deliberations and respectful to the public process.

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

Throughout my career I've been dedicated to open communication with members of the City family. As Director of Neighborhood Services I helped the Mayor launch the Open Door Program, a monthly Saturday morning that allowed for 30 appointments with the Mayor on a first-come, first-served basis. I will bring back this tradition to open City Hall to all San Franciscans.

I will also publish my calendar daily including meeting attendees and topics to be discussed. I will always strive to require openness in how policies are developed.

We will not stonewall Sunshine requests.

I will allow tours to walk through my office daily.

When you walk into Room 200, it will be busy with people working and meeting with visitors. It will also include a leaderboard on top topics from the community communicated through e-mail, tweets, Facebook, or in person. We should communicate dynamism and greatness - not the somber tone of a funeral home.