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November 23, 2020

Supervisor Hillary and Board of Supervisors
San Francisco City Hall
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place,
San Francisco, CA 9410

Re: Support of Union Negotiation Transparency

Dear Supervisor Ronen,

The San Francisco Chamber of Commerce represents hundreds of local businesses and their employees, and strives to support San Francisco's small business community. We have always believed that the pillar of good governance lies with transparency. **With this in mind, we are supportive of your proposed legislation to make San Francisco Police Officers Association negotiations with the city public. We believe that the legislation should be expanded to make all labor negotiations public in San Francisco, in an effort to broaden transparency across all City Departments.**

As demand for police reform comes from our communities, we are called to support legislation that would require that San Francisco Police Officers Association collective bargaining meetings be open to the public and announced in advance, and that the city publicly post all correspondence and collective bargaining notices between themselves and union officials. For the same reasons we must have public accountability with the Police Officers Association for reform, we see a large opportunity for bringing both transparency and scrutiny to all labor processes that have long taken place behind closed doors.

While collective bargaining negotiations have historically not been allowed public view, this is due to practice and not law. The Labor Management Relations Act seeks to eliminate and mitigate causes of obstructions to the flow of commerce through collective bargaining and self-organized negotiations, as well as protect the rights of the public as connected to labor disputes that impact commerce. We feel that providing public transparency to the San Francisco Police Officers Association negotiations is just the beginning of what could make San Francisco a forefront in public accountability and transparency of labor negotiations.

Expanding this legislation to include all labor negotiations would be a progressive step forward. Transparency through public accountability in all labor negotiations with the city would lay the groundwork for speedier reforms in all industries, and eliminate bureaucratic negotiations that serve as obstacles to change.

The San Francisco Chamber of Commerce offers our support of your legislation to support increased transparency in union negotiations, and urges you to consider expanding this legislation to all labor negotiations.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

San Francisco Chamber of Commerce

CC: Mayor London N. Breed, Clerk of the Board, the full Board of Supervisors