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Oakland Housing
Authority

July 24, 2013

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to express my support of the appointment of Adhi Nagraj to the Oakland Planning Commission. Mr. Nagraj has served on the Oakland Housing Authority Board of Commissioners since November, 2010. While on the Housing Authority Commission, he has chaired several Committees, including the Budget and Development Policy Committees, and also is a member of the Education Committee which develops and promotes educational opportunities to OHA youth and strengthens the partnership between the Housing Authority and the Oakland Unified School District.

Mr. Nagraj combines hard skills with soft skills and creativity to understand complex issues and help solve them. His passion for housing and land use policy is rooted in direct service work he has done including: working as an after-school teacher, AmeriCorp member before law school, and in 2009 created and taught a community development class at United For Success Academy in the Fruitvale.

While working with him at the Housing Authority I have found him to be a conscientious listener – of staff, residents and community members, and other Commissioners. His passion for housing/community issues is shown through several efforts: he attends National Night Out each year, he visited New York City Housing Authority during a holiday trip to New York meeting with staff and touring their properties, he also attends lunches and evening events regularly to meet as many people and learn about as many issues as possible.

Although we will miss his voice on the Housing Authority Board of Commissioners, I know that with his experience, compassion and commitment to Oakland and its diverse communities, he will make an excellent Planning Commissioner. Passionate about the role the built environment plays in the lives of people, whether that's in the context of neighborhood health, safety and engagement, he firmly believes that effective land use policy can help our City to thrive.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Eric Johnson", with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Eric Johnson
Executive Director