

# Aaron Peskin

San Francisco, CA 94133

May 15, 2026

VIA EMAIL <[REDACTED]g>

Inspector General Alexandra Shepard  
Office of the Controller  
City Hall, Room 316  
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place  
San Francisco, CA 94102

Dear Inspector General Shepard:

I write to formally request that you open an investigation into the circumstances surrounding the appointment of Stephen Sherrill as District 2 Supervisor by former Mayor London Breed in December 2024. I believe this matter falls squarely within the mandate voters entrusted to this office, and I am writing to put my request on record.

Voters created your position by approving Proposition C in November 2024 by a majority of nearly 61 percent. I authored that measure and placed it before voters because I believed — and continue to believe — that San Francisco needs an independent watchdog with real investigative authority, insulated from political interference, to act when elected officials will not. Your office has the authority to lead investigations into conflicts of interest, abuse of contracting procedures, and violations of law or policy, and to report on public integrity. The matter I am bringing to your attention is precisely the kind of case this office was created to address.

The facts of this matter are public. On May 11, 2026, the San Francisco Standard and Mission Local published detailed reporting based on on-the-record accounts from two of former Mayor Breed's closest advisors. The reporting describes the following sequence of events, and the financial relationships underlying it are a matter of documented public record.

Michael Bloomberg contributed more than \$1.5 million to an independent expenditure committee supporting Breed's failed reelection bid. The San Francisco Mayor's Office of Innovation — the unit Sherrill directed immediately prior to his appointment — is funded by Bloomberg Philanthropies. Sherrill previously worked as an aide in the Bloomberg mayoral administration in New York City. In short, Bloomberg had funded the Mayor who made the appointment, funded the office that gave Sherrill his platform, and employed Sherrill earlier in his career. These relationships were publicly known at the time of the appointment and prompted immediate questions about its propriety.

What was not known publicly until May 11, 2026, is what former Mayor Breed allegedly said privately about her reasons for making the appointment. According to on-the-record accounts from two former aides with direct knowledge, Bloomberg personally called Breed and asked for Sherrill to be appointed to the vacant District 2 supervisorial seat. Breed's own aides counseled strongly against the appointment, warning her it was "*potentially illegal, and certainly wrong.*" One advisor brought printed federal statutes to City Hall in an attempt to dissuade her.

Breed proceeded with the appointment regardless. According to the reporting, she told a close advisor: "*I'm 50 years old and about to be out of a job; I need to think about my financial future.*" She added that Bloomberg's team had plans to "set her up" after she left office. Her words, as reported and attributed: "This one's for me."

The reporting drew immediate reaction from legal and ethics authorities. Former federal prosecutor Bill Portanova reviewed the on-the-record evidence and stated: *"It smells. It smells like someone planning their post-government career."* California Common Cause responded that: *"The ethics are cut and dry: you don't make appointments based on the prospect of self-enrichment."*

The full picture, taken together, is this: a billionaire who had given more than \$1.5 million to Breed's campaigns, who funded the office where Sherrill worked, and who had employed Sherrill in a prior chapter of his career, personally called a departing Mayor and asked her to hand that same person a seat on the Board of Supervisors. The Mayor, by her own reported words, made the appointment in anticipation of personal financial benefit. Following the appointment, the Mayor accepted a six-month position as an adviser-in-residence at the Aspen Policy Academy, which collaborates with and is partially funded by Bloomberg Philanthropies. That is the matter I am asking your office to investigate.

It has now been nearly a week since this reporting was published. The conduct described involves a sitting Supervisor whose appointment is alleged to have been made not in the public interest, but as a personal favor to a billionaire donor in exchange for the prospect of private employment. The Supervisor in question remains in office and is a candidate in the June 2 District 2 election.

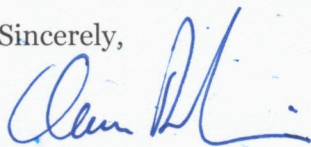
Mayor Lurie — who made the fight against City Hall corruption a central and repeated pledge of his 2024 campaign, announcing an *"aggressive ethics enforcement proposal to restore trust, integrity and accountability in city government,"* and stating, *"I am the only candidate who will dramatically reshape the bureaucracy, clean out the rot of corruption and hold every department accountable"* — has not spoken publicly about this matter, despite having endorsed Supervisor Sherrill in the current District 2 election. City Hall has taken no action.

This silence is precisely the circumstance your office was designed to address. When elected leaders have a political interest in inaction, an independent inspector general is the recourse voters have available to them.

Therefore, I respectfully request that your office open a formal investigation into the appointment of Stephen Sherrill as District 2 Supervisor, and specifically into whether that appointment was made, in whole or in part, on the basis of the former Mayor's personal financial interests rather than the public interest. I further request that your office make its findings public in accordance with the transparency obligations established under Proposition C.

The voters of San Francisco passed Proposition C because they understood that City Hall cannot be trusted to investigate itself. That proposition is being tested right now. I am confident you will act on it.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Aaron Peskin', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Aaron Peskin  
Former President San Francisco Board of Supervisors