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October 20, 2015

VIA E-MAIL john.arntz@sfgov.com AND U.S. MAIL

John Arntz, Director
Department of Elections
City and County of San Francisco
One Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, Room 48
San Francisco, CA 94102-4635

RE: New Voting System

Dear Mr. Arntz:

This follows up on our conversation during the Voter Accessibility Advisory Committee (VAAC) meeting on October 6, 2015 regarding San Francisco's new voting system Request for Proposal (RFP). As we discussed, it is critical, as well as legally required, for the new voting system to be fully accessible to all voters with disabilities, allowing them to vote privately and independently. As you said, an accessible voting system benefits everybody.

Disability Rights California (DRC) requests to be involved in reviewing the RFP. It is easier to address accessibility issues before the system is developed than afterwards. DRC is the federally mandated protection and advocacy system for California. Through a grant under the Help America Vote Act, DRC provides advocacy for voters with disabilities and works with election officials to ensure elections are accessible to all voters with disabilities. For example, DRC is a member of nine local VAACs, including San Francisco's VAAC.

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Please let me know what the RFP timeline is and how we can best provide input.

Sincerely,


Fred Nisen
Supervising Attorney

cc: Christopher Jerdonek, President of the Election Commission
Jill Rowe, Vice President of the Election Commission
Commissioner Charles Jung
Commissioner Dominic Paris
Commissioner Rosabella Safont
Commissioner Winnie Yu
Supervisor London Breed, President of the Board of Supervisors
Supervisor Eric Mar
Supervisor Mark Farrell
Supervisor Katy Tang
Supervisor Jane Kim
Supervisor Norman Yee
Supervisor Scott Wiener
Supervisor David Campos
Supervisor Malia Cohen
Supervisor John Avalos
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