

# SAN FRANCISCO BAY AREA RAPID TRANSIT DISTRICT

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## Memorandum

**TO:** Board of Directors

**DATE:** June 3, 2022

**FROM:** Acting District Secretary

**SUBJECT:** Transit Security Advisory Committee Appointment and Reappointments

The District Secretary's Office (DSO) facilitated the recruitment process for the Transit Security Advisory Committee (TSAC) and coordinated the selection process for two (2) vacant seats and three (3) seats with terms that will expire on June 30, 2022. The nominations will be submitted to the Board of Directors (Board) for appointment/reappointment at the June 9, 2022, Board Meeting.

The two (2) vacant seats are for one (1) Public-At-Large Representative and one (1) Alternate. The DSO facilitated recruitment for all vacant seats and received one application (attached) for the Public-At-Large Representative seat. No applications were received for the vacant Alternate seat.

The three (3) seats with terms that will expire on June 30, 2022, are for Public-At-Large Representatives and an Alternate. Based on our communication with the Board and currently-seated TSAC appointees, we expect that two (2) of the currently-seated TSAC appointees will be reappointed, as only two appointees have indicated acceptance of such reappointment.

All appointments of new members, or reappointments of currently-seated members, shall be for two-year terms.

The potential process for selection of TSAC members for the Public-At-Large Representative and Alternate seats is as follows:

- I. A motion may be made to accomplish the following:
  - a) Appoint Omar Farmer to fill a Public-At-Large Representative seat;
  - b) Reappoint Tiffany Lacsado as a Public-At-Large Representative;
  - c) Reappoint Randall Glock as a Public-At-Large Representative – Alternate; and
  - d) Direct the District Secretary's Office to continuously recruit for the remaining Public-At-Large Representative (1) and Alternate (1) seat vacancies.

- II. When appointing or reappointing nominees to the TSAC, the Board may consider the following requirements outlined in the TSAC by-laws:

“Qualifications for the Public-at-Large Representatives: There shall be three (3) or four (4) Public-at-Large Representatives, preferably users of the BART system and all alternates are strongly encouraged to attend all meetings. Alternates are not eligible to vote unless filling in for an appointed member that is absent. An alternate is designated by the TSAC Chairperson. Staff will notify TSAC alternates that attendance will be needed for the next meeting.”

We have attached additional Advisory Committee Requirements for your reference.

- III. All new appointments or reappointments of currently-seated members, will be officially installed as members of the TSAC for a term of two years, beginning on July 1, 2022.

A draft motion is provided below and if adopted by the Board, the appointment and reappointment of the TSAC Public-At-Large and Public-At-Large – Alternate nominees will be ratified.

Please contact Mag Tatum at (510) 464-6089 or [mtatum@bart.gov](mailto:mtatum@bart.gov) or me at (510) 464-6082 or [aandra2@bart.gov](mailto:aandra2@bart.gov) if you have any questions about this matter.

Thank you.

*April B. A. Quintanilla*

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April B. A. Quintanilla

DRAFT MOTION:

That the Board of Directors (a) ratifies the appointment and reappointment of the following nominees for a term of two (2) years, beginning on July 1, 2022, and expiring on June 30, 2024:

Omar Farmer, Public-At-Large Representative  
Tiffany Lacsado, Public-At-Large Representative  
Randall Glock, Public-At-Large – Alternate; and

(b) Directs the District Secretary’s Office to continuously recruit for the remaining Public-At-Large Representative (1) and Alternate (1) seat vacancies.

## Advisory Committee Requirements

The advisory committee members and alternates are appointed by the Board. At least one of the committee members must have experience working with individuals with psychiatric or other disabilities, one committee member must have experience as a youth advocate, and one committee member must have law enforcement experience as a sworn peace officer. **Two total alternates** shall be appointed by the Board with no more than **one alternate per category**. All alternates are strongly encouraged to attend all meetings. Alternates are not eligible to vote unless filling in for an appointed member that is absent. An alternate is designated by the TSAC Chairperson. Staff will notify TSAC alternates that attendance will be needed for the next meeting.

The advisory committee reports directly to the Board. Meetings are generally held once per month, and service on the TSAC is voluntary. Volunteer members of this committee will:

1. Provide recommendations regarding the type and extent of training that should be undertaken by individuals with responsibility for issuance and enforcement of prohibition orders, with particular emphasis on training designed to assist those individuals in identifying and interacting with persons who are homeless or who have psychiatric or other disabilities.
2. Identify services and programs to which persons who are homeless or who have psychiatric, developmental, or other disabilities may be referred by transit district enforcement personnel prior to or in conjunction with issuance of a prohibition order.
3. Review appeals to prohibition orders.
4. Compile an annual report to be submitted to the State Legislature.
5. Participate in community outreach.

All TSAC members must be fair-minded and objective with a demonstrated commitment to community service. Appointees to the TSAC are subject to a background check and committee members must not have any felony convictions. Members serving on the TSAC are not required to be U.S. citizens.



## **APPLICATION FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE TRANSIT SECURITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE TWO OPEN SEAT - ALTERNATE VACANCY THREE OPEN SEAT - Public at Large VACANCY**

The Transit Security Advisory Committee (TSAC) for the San Francisco Bay Area Rapid Transit District (BART) is the citizen and community oversight committee that works to ensure Assembly Bill 716 (Dickinson) is implemented as the Legislature intended. The Legislature further adopted AB 730 (Quirk) that repealed the sunset provision of law, making the law permanent.

See attachment: "Prohibition Policy to Protect Riders and Employees" for further details on the law.

The oversight group, comprised of at least five citizens, and no greater than seven citizens, serves as a volunteer review body for the implementation of BART's prohibition policy. Drawing from their private and public sector experiences, the committee brings a diverse set of skills to the review and execution of the prohibition policy.

The TSAC is dedicated to finding solutions to problems which impact the safety of BART, its riders and employees. Along with other public safety initiatives, the District will continue to work to address passenger misconduct through the BART prohibition policy allowed by AB 716 and report results to the State Legislature on an annual basis.

### **Advisory Committee Requirements**

The advisory committee members and alternates are appointed by the BART Board of Directors. At least one of the committee members must have experience working with individuals with psychiatric or other disabilities, one must have experience as a youth advocate, and at least one advisory committee member must have law enforcement experience as a sworn peace officer.

The advisory committee reports directly to the BART Board of Directors. Meetings are generally held once per month, and service on the TSAC is voluntary. As a volunteer member of this committee you will:

- 1) Provide recommendations regarding the type and extent of training that should be undertaken by individuals with responsibility for issuance and enforcement of prohibition orders, with particular emphasis on training designed to assist those individuals in identifying and interacting with persons who are homeless or who have psychiatric or other disabilities.
- 2) Identify services and programs which persons who are homeless or who have psychiatric, developmental, or other disabilities may be referred by transit district enforcement personnel prior to or in conjunction with issuance of a prohibition order.
- 3) Review appeals to prohibition orders.
- 4) Compile an annual report to the State Legislature.

5) Participate in community outreach.

All TSAC members must be fair-minded and objective with demonstrated commitment to community service. Appointees to the TSAC are subject to a background check and must not have any felony convictions. Members serving on the TSAC are not required to be U.S. citizens.

It is important that you complete all parts of the application. If your application is incomplete or does not clearly show the experience and/or training required, your application may not be accepted.

**The application process will include two phases:**

**PHASE 1 – Application and Recommendation Review**

*All applications will be reviewed for all Membership Representation requirements and qualifications, letters of recommendation, and any supplemental documents.*

**PHASE 2 – BART Board of Directors Appointment**

*Selected candidates will be invited to appear before the Board of Directors to briefly explain their interest in serving on the committee, followed by a Board vote.*

**Tentative Board Date: Thursday, June 9, 2022, at 9:00 A.M. (PST)**

**I. Personal Information**

*Please consider my application for the following representation(s) on the TSAC:*

|                                                                                          |                                                                                                                                                                         |                              |              |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------|--------------|
| <b>Select a Representation:<br/>Check the Box</b><br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Mental Health/Disabilities:</b><br>Must possess experience working with individuals with psychiatric, developmental, or other disabilities. |                              |              |
|                                                                                          | <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Youth Advocate:</b><br>Must possess experience as a youth advocate within the region of the BART system.                                    |                              |              |
|                                                                                          | <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Law Enforcement</b><br>Must possess experience as a sworn peace officer within the region of the BART system.                               |                              |              |
|                                                                                          | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Public at Large</b><br>Preferably users of the BART system.                                                                      |                              |              |
|                                                                                          | <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Alternate</b>                                                                                                                               |                              |              |
| <b>First, Last Name:</b>                                                                 | Omar Farmer                                                                                                                                                             | <b>Home/Mailing Address:</b> | [REDACTED]   |
| <b>City &amp; Zip:</b>                                                                   | Oakland 94610                                                                                                                                                           | <b>County:</b>               | Alameda      |
| <b>Main Phone:</b>                                                                       | [REDACTED]                                                                                                                                                              | <b>Alternate Phone:</b>      | [REDACTED]   |
| <b>Email Address:</b>                                                                    | [REDACTED]                                                                                                                                                              | <b>Occupation:</b>           | Entrepreneur |

II. **Recommendation Contact Information** (must provide **two** recommendations)

*Please provide the contact information for the individuals recommending your appointment and attach their letters of recommendation to this application.*

|                 |              |                |                 |
|-----------------|--------------|----------------|-----------------|
| First Name:     | Angela       | Last Name:     | Davis           |
| Mailing Address | /            | City & Zip:    | San Francisco / |
| Phone:          | [REDACTED]   | Email Address: | [REDACTED]      |
|                 |              |                |                 |
| First Name:     | Shikira      | Last Name:     | Porter          |
| Mailing Address | /            | City & Zip:    | Oakland / CA    |
| Phone:          | [REDACTED] - | Email Address: | [REDACTED]      |
|                 |              |                |                 |

III. **Personal Statement of Interest**

*Briefly explain your interest in serving on the TSAC. Please feel free to attach an additional page.*

Additional pages attached

IV. **Qualifications and Experience**

*What qualifications/assets do you have that make you a strong candidate for service on the TSAC? Please feel free to attach a resume or an additional page.*

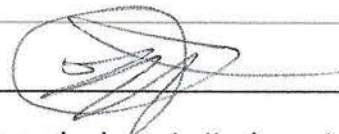
Additional pages attached

V. **Organizations/Group Membership**

*List any organizations or groups that you belong to or are involved with that you believe bear relevance to your candidacy for service on the TSAC:*

|                           |                                                         |                  |                           |
|---------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|------------------|---------------------------|
| <b>Organization Name:</b> | Bay Area Racial Justice Network                         | <b>Position:</b> | Leadership Council Member |
| <b>Organization Name:</b> | Public Safety & Services Violence Prevention Commission | <b>Position:</b> | District 2 Commissioner   |
| <b>Organization Name:</b> | Alameda County Veterans Affairs Commission              | <b>Position:</b> | District 5 Commissioner   |
| <b>Organization Name:</b> |                                                         | <b>Position:</b> |                           |
| <b>Organization Name:</b> |                                                         | <b>Position:</b> |                           |

Applicant Signature: \_\_\_\_\_



Date: 27 May 2022

Return this form and relevant attachments to the BART Office of the District Secretary:

2150 Webster Street, 10<sup>th</sup> Floor, Oakland, CA 94612 or email to  
[TransitSecurityAdvisory@bart.gov](mailto:TransitSecurityAdvisory@bart.gov). Feel free to call (510) 464-6089 with any questions.

**Final Filing Date - Application Deadline Tuesday, May 31, 2022, at 5:00 P.M. (PST)**

Thank you for your interest in serving on the Transit Security Advisory Committee (TSAC).

### III. TSAC personal interest statement:

Being born and raised in San Francisco and currently living as a resident of Oakland, I've been a life-long BART rider. Having experienced my share of public safety issues as a passenger it would be my pleasure to serve on this advisory council. As a member of Oakland's Reimagining Public Safety Task Force from 2020-to 2021, I researched, proposed, and got approved multiple potential city ordinances, and other recommendations that will lead to improvements to public safety Oakland-wide. One of my goals when drafting those recommendations was to ensure they were implemented in an appropriate and effective way. Similar to the process by which the TSAC is evaluating the implementation of Assembly Bills 716 and 730.

One of my goals when making these recommendations was to prevent excessive force, specifically for incidents involving youth, developmentally impaired residents, and members of protected classes, including those with potential mental health/disabilities. Many of my recommendations through the Reimagining Public Safety process focused on de-escalation and safety rather than on tactics that are proven to be counterproductive and/or ones that incite the type of violent response, public safety agencies seek to deter. If given the opportunity to make recommendations to the BART board of directors, I'll be able to provide the type of thoughtful and insightful feedback that would work to keep both BART employees safe, as well as any potential violators who are within the grounds of a BART facility.

### IV. TSAC Qualifications:

As a veteran, I've spent an extensive amount of time working successfully in group settings with vets who suffer from PTSD. This demonstrates some of my experience at being fair-minded and objective while working with folks who suffer from mental health disabilities. During my career as a Surface Warfare Officer in the Navy I was also a: Lead Law Enforcement Officer and an Anti-Terrorism and Force Protection Officer, during an Operation Enduring and Operation Iraqi Freedom deployment. During this tour of duty, I was charged with keeping service members safe while conducting operations in a combat theater. These experiences could help the TSAC with better evaluating situations involving BART PD to better keep BART facilities and employees safe. In those roles and others, my ability to act objectively and constructively was very well regarded. These skills could prove to be invaluable concerning insight into incidents involving BART PD and/or employees who are enforcing provisions of AB's 716 and 730.

Subsequent to those roles, I served as an Emergency Management Officer where I worked extensively at improving public safety at a base overseas while working closely with local PD, base MP's, and other stakeholders. While creating and running security and mass casualty drills to learn how to better protect the base and its residents, we also trained first responders on how to respond to a myriad of incidents. Some of which may be similar in scope to incidents BART employees or riders encounter. I also helped re-organize and renovate the base emergency operations center while training other officers on how to conduct command and control during scenario-based incidents and trained them on how to help generate safe outcomes. BART PD may also have similar situations where lessons learned from these experiences are helpful.

Since I resigned my commission and pursued civilian opportunities, I've worked as a youth organizer, president, and co-founder of a PTA at my daughter's elementary school, as well as a youth football coach at

City College of San Francisco. This puts into context my experience with working with youth and making sure their input is included. With students and youth making up a large portion of BART's customer base, it would be helpful to have someone not only adept at listening and being able to put their ideas into practice, but as someone who used BART extensively as a youth and now as an adult, I can provide feedback from both perspectives. Before I was a parent, I volunteered to create a youth tutoring and mentoring program at a Dept of Defense High School overseas, because I saw a need for it. As a result, it was successful at getting all of their youth off of academic probation, which explains more of my experience in working successfully with youth.

In 2016 I also co-created a neighborhood group to address rampant discrimination and racial profiling on Nextdoor. In that capacity, I spearheaded several community workshops for several years which worked to educate my community on the harmful impacts of that type of rhetoric. Due to its success, executives from Nextdoor heard about what I had been doing and recruited me to be a Community Mediator on their Neighborhood Operations Team. After joining the team I became known as a go-to person who was very successful and turning around toxic customers online. At one point a group of moderators from Texas who I had resolved several online issues for, hired me to fly to Texas and conduct training for their neighborhood group and another who they had several disputes with. The training was a huge success and we resolved all of their issues. Soon after Nextdoor transitioned me to only handle complaints and reports concerning racial profiling and discrimination online. This role involved resolving cases and disputes with Nextdoor members nationwide. While interfacing with these customers, I was responsible for always staying objective, as well as calm and collected, which I excelled at. After leaving Nextdoor earlier this year I left the company with over 1,500 perfect customer service ratings, including ones being from members who participated in discriminatory or racist rhetoric online, which demonstrates my ability to act objectively as required by members of the TSAC.

After being a finalist for Oakland's Police Commission in 2020, I worked effectively as a community volunteer with the Command Staff of the Oakland Police Department (OPD) where I participated on multiple Police Commission ad hoc committees where we revised or created 3 new departmental policies involving OPD's use of their: Armored Vehicles, Dedicated Arrest Teams, and the first in the nation Armed but Unresponsive policy in response to the Joshua Pawlik incident. Joshua Pawlik was a homeless man who suffered from mental illness and was inappropriately killed by OPD in 2018. Myself and another community member co-led the creation of a community petition that was successful at campaigning for the creation of a resolution to replace OPD's paramilitary BearCat armored vehicle with a more innocuous one in March of 2021 by showing OPD and the Police Commission the benefit of doing so despite a lot of initial pushback, which they ultimately agreed to do.

As a member of Oakland's Reimagining Public Safety Task Force, I served on both the Legal & Policy and Organization & Culture Advisory Boards and did a significant amount of research at evaluating OPD's internal culture which may be relatable to BART PD experiences. I've also provided several solutions in order to resolve their 20-year federal oversight issue. I also continue to work as an ad hoc member for the Oakland Police Commission and recently finished being a part of their Community Policing and Electronic Device policy committees.

In November of this year, I was appointed by Oakland City Council President Fortunato Bas to be Oakland's District 2 representative for the city of Oakland's Public Safety and Services Violence Prevention Oversight

Commission (aka SSOC) where we advise the City Council on public safety matters concerning Measure Z, Oakland Fire, OPD, and the Dept of Violence Prevention. Our primary goals are overseeing tax proceeds raised by Measure Z, which can only be used to pay for costs or expenses, related to or arising from, efforts to achieve the following outcomes:

- Reduction in homicides, robberies, burglaries, and gun-related violence
- Improved police and fire 911 response times
- Investments in violence intervention and prevention strategies that provide support for at-risk youth and young adults to interrupt cycles of violence and recidivism.

In April I was named chair of their strategic planning ad hoc committee. Combined, all of these experiences have helped prepare me for this opportunity and I hope to receive your highest consideration.

December 10, 2021

Bay Area Rapid Transit  
300 Lakeside Drive, 23<sup>rd</sup> Floor  
Oakland, CA 94612

Re: Recommendation Letter for Omar Farmer's Appointment to the Transit Security Advisory Committee

Dear BART Board of Directors,

I'm writing to recommend Omar Farmer to the BART Transit Security Advisory Committee.

I met Mr. Farmer a few years ago during an online conference with the CEO and Executive Staff of the online startup Nextdoor. Nextdoor had invited a few community-based organization to an important discussion regarding the perception of profiling on their platform. Nextdoor is touted as a vehicle for people living in discreet neighborhoods to connect online and check on safety in their immediate surroundings. Many of the online Nextdoor forums are led by everyday neighbors termed team leads. Since modern research suggest all people are susceptible to bias, particularly when accessing potential threat, Nextdoor struggled with reports of racial profiling.

To ensure community bias didn't unfairly target specific groups of people, Mr. Farmer was hired by Nextdoor to assist them in rooting out this bias.

What impresses me about Mr. Farmer is his ability to work with law enforcement respectfully and understand their role in community justice. Mr. Farmer is steadfast in ensuring local authorities are up to date in community policing and serving communities of color.

Mr. Farmer's tenacity for social justice has led him to change local policy with the help of his grassroots organization. In addition, he has authored Bias by Proxy laws to prevent the abuse of emergency calls to police that are rooted in bias. Recently, Mr. Farmer has tutored himself in the complexities of Hate Crime Laws and statutes to find ways to prevent them.

Knowing Mr. Farmer makes me appreciate our common bonds as veteran knowing that our military service has prepared us for team building, mission focus and balance in all our endeavors. These are qualities that make for a good Transit Security Advisory Committee member.

Therefore, I strongly recommend Mr. Omar Farmer be appointed to the Transit Security Advisory Committee.

Sincerely,

Angela R. Jenkins

January 7<sup>th</sup>, 2022

To, Bart Transit Security Advisory Committee, Interview Panel

It is with great pleasure and confidence that I recommend Omar Farmer for the Bart Transit Security Advisory Committee.

Omar and I have begun working together over 8 years ago when his newly formed community group parented with my newly formed community group. Oakland Neighbors Inspiring Trust (Omar) and Neighbors for Racial Justice (Shikira) quickly noticed that our neighborhood goals were similar in that public safety efforts must include that of people of color going to work, taking a walk, standing for a bit without being harassed or questioned by neighbors. Together our groups planned events and conversations that allowed neighbors to dream into a different public safety model that included the safety, peace and dignity of *all*.

In addition to doing work where he lives and breathes, Omar committed 6 months to developing and revising policies for Oakland's Police Commission: Armed and Unresponsive Persons, Dedicated Arrest Teams, and Militarized Equipment Ad Hoc Committees. In this committee he helped to develop new policy that disrupts the terrifying use of Oakland Police Department's use of their paramilitary, tank-style vehicle (BearCat) on communities, especially those that are Black/brown and low resourced.

As of November 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2021, Omar was appointed by Oakland's mayor and City Councilmembers and sworn in to serve on Oakland's Public Safety and Services Violence Prevention Oversight Commission (aka SSOC). This committee is tasked in overseeing the proper administration of revenue collection, spending and the implementation of the programs funded through Measure Z (Public Safety and Services Violence Prevention Act revenue).

Working in partnership with Omar over the years, I trust and believe his skills from both his dedication to the city of Oakland as well as his plethora of leadership as a former Naval Officer will serve as a dynamic addition to the TSAC. Omar's background has supported honing critical skills such as identifying/prioritizing unjust issues; developing/implementing strong program policies; holding a lens that is fair, balanced, respectful; understanding

community aspirations/concerns; defining measures of progress/results and most importantly bringing the group to consensus when divided.

Also compelling , is Omar's commitment to doing his own internal equity work to hold himself accountable to deepening and strengthening his understanding of bias, racist, anti-Black systems and structures. In turn, this ongoing inquiry serves to benefit and serve communities most impacted by safety enforcement.

As a social worker for families who are unhoused, community partner and friend to Omar, I highly recommend him for this position with TSAC.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns.

Shikira Porter

