

City and County of San Francisco
HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION



Sheryl Evans Davis
Executive Director

Edwin M. Lee
Mayor

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Wednesday, November 2, 2016

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*****PRESS RELEASE*****

The San Francisco Human Rights Commission Announces Sheryl Evans Davis as Agency's New Executive Director

(San Francisco, CA) The San Francisco Human Rights Commission (SF-HRC) is pleased to announce the appointment of Sheryl Evans Davis as the agency's new Executive Director. Based in part on the recommendation of her fellow SF-HRC Commissioners, Davis was officially appointed to the position and sworn-in by San Francisco Mayor Edwin Lee on September 8, 2016 at a ceremony at San Francisco City Hall. Davis had been serving as a Commissioner on the SF-HRC since being appointed in 2012.

The San Francisco Human Rights Commission (HRC) works to increase equality, eradicate discrimination, and protect human rights for all people. Since 1964, the HRC has championed San Francisco's fight to address prejudice, intolerance, bigotry, discrimination and their effects. Among other responsibilities, the HRC oversees the implementation and enforcement of San Francisco's anti-discrimination ordinances.

"I am honored by this appointment and thankful to Mayor Lee and the Commission for the opportunity to do the work that I love and in the City where I live and have raised my family," noted Davis. "I look forward to continuing to work with community stakeholders, building on relationships established over the years. I am excited to create new civic partnerships focused on supporting disenfranchised communities to thrive, be seen and be heard. I consider this an opportunity to continue my work in public service and one that allows me to advocate for at risk communities by creating pathways and access toward achieving socio-economic sustainability," continued Davis.

"Sheryl Davis has an exemplary background as a leader and facilitator of change" added Susan B. Christian Chair of the SF-HRC. "Ms. Davis' long-term work ensuring that the historically underserved have a voice is commendable and serves as a testament to the wisdom of her appointment first as a Commissioner and now Executive Director with the San Francisco Human Rights Commission. I and the rest of her colleagues on the Commission are thrilled and tremendously excited to work with Ms. Davis on these endeavors."

Sheryl Evans Davis was born in Denison Texas, but she grew up in the San Francisco-Bay Area. Davis earned her BA degree from San Francisco State University and her Master's in Public Administration from the University of San Francisco. She began her career as an educator,

witnessing resource gaps first hand - working in private schools and volunteering in community centers in the Western Addition.

Prior to becoming the SF-HRC's new executive director, Davis was the executive director and founder of the MO' Magic Collaborative. Launched in 2006, the MO' Magic Collaborative is charged with convening various stakeholders to address community issues including creating inclusion, opportunity and access programming aimed at improving life outcomes for some of the City's historically underserved and vulnerable youth.

Early on in her career, Davis became well acquainted with the disparity between resources, experiences, expectations and opportunities. This awareness prompted Davis to develop out-of-school time programs for Western Addition youth that linked with the private schools to offer support with homework, enrichment classes as well as access to quality programs. Ms. Davis has served as a legislative aide for a SF District Supervisor, where she focused on public housing issues, building collaboration amongst service providers, public safety, economic and workforce development and youth issues. In addition, Davis served on the Fillmore Community Benefits District, Redevelopment Agency's Western Addition Citizen Advisory Committee, SFPD Fair and Impartial Policing Advisory Committee, SFPD Community Policing Advisory, and The SF Census Complete Count Committee.

In her role as Executive Director, Davis plans to build upon her work with the "***Black to the Future***" initiative which is a city-supported and community driven effort designed to advance policy recommendations aimed at addressing and improving upon quality of life issues in historically underserved communities of color and for youth. Moreover, she will lead the City's Engineering for Equity work and will create a framework of strategies and tools used to examine and address issues of equity.

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