

Tara Shaia

For Appointment to the Rodeo-Hercules Fire District

This packet contains the following letters of support:

Darrin Bessolo	Rodeo Businessperson and Resident
Maureen Brennan	Rodeo Resident and Community Advocate
Janet Callaghan	Rodeo Resident and President of Rodeo Citizens Association
Bie Lie	Hercules Resident and Co-Worker
Tanya Little	Hercules Resident and Community Advocate
Liana Ruslim	Co-Worker

2-19-23

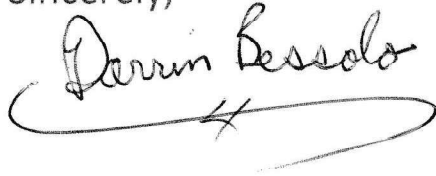
To the Board,

I support Tara Shaia for appointment to the Fire District Board. She will do a great job for the fire department and for the community.

I have known Tara for many years. We are long time family friends. Tara is fair and I know she wants the best for our town.

Please appoint Tara Shaia.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Darrin Bessolo". The signature is written in black ink and features a large, sweeping flourish at the bottom that extends to the left and then curves back under the name.

Darrin Bessolo

2/16/23

To the Board of the Rodeo-Hercules Fire District:

I would like to support the nomination of Tara Shaia for the open position on the Board. She is a long-time resident of Rodeo, and understands the local interests in our community. I volunteer at the Pinole Senior Center lunch program, where she is head chef, purchaser, and trainer in the kitchen. She is forever emphasizing safety in our respective roles, and she runs a tight ship. She communicates well with all involved. In our recent November 2022 elections, she was next in line with 22% of the vote. The community has spoken, with a high level of support. I saw her last October at the RHFD "community open house," asking questions, learning about the fire district, and doing her "homework." I think she will add balance to our struggling Board.

Thanks.

Maureen Brennan  
Rodeo, CA



Rodeo Citizen &lt;citizenr572@gmail.com&gt;

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**Support for Tara Shaia RHFPD appointment**

1 message

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**Janet Callaghan** <janetandpaul@icloud.com>  
To: CitizenR572@gmail.com

Mon, Feb 20, 2023 at 4:04 PM

2/19/23

To the Rodeo-Hercules Fire District's Board of Directors.

I ask that you appoint Tara Shaia for the open director position. Tara deserves to be the Rodeo appointment because she will add balance to the board for the Town of Rodeo as we are not a city and the county has not listened to Rodeo recently.

I have known Tara for almost 44 years since I became a Rodeo resident, but not as long as her generations of family in Rodeo. I have volunteered with Tara during the late 1994's during old fashion bucket air monitoring when it was Citizens for a Better Environment now called Communities for a Better Environment known as CBE including Julia May and others. Also the Rodeo Creek Trail/watershed and working with the past County Service Area R10 and Community Advisory Panel with Phillips 66.

Tara deserves to be appointed and will be an asset to the RHFD. She received a lot of votes in the Nov 2022 elections she was 4th on the list and went through elections. The Board should follow those voices and appoint Tara Shaia. She works hard, studies, cares about our firefighter needs, is committed to working with the board and providing the best for all.

Sincerely,  
Janet Callaghan  
President Rodeo Citizens Association

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**Tara Shaia for RHFD appointment**

1 message

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**B Lie** <bielie1@hotmail.com>

Sun, Feb 19, 2023 at 5:53 PM

To: "citizenr572@gmail.com" &lt;citizenr572@gmail.com&gt;

Hi Tara

Please see my letter of recommendation below.

Please give this to RHFD Directors.

I really hope that you will be appointed because we really need a strong leader like you!

Dear RHFD Directors,

I m in support of appointing Tara Shaia to the Roseo-Hercules Fire District Board.

I have worked with Tara and known her to be professional, patient and work very well under pressure, keeping it a level mind.

I am a Hercules Resident and believe that Tara Shaia would be a great addition to the RHFD Board.

Your attention on this matter is much appreciated

Sincerely,

Bie Lie

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# TANYA LITTLE

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258 Sunset Drive, HERCULES, CA 94547 | H:5107419941 | C: 5105208944 | [tzzlittle@gmail.com](mailto:tzzlittle@gmail.com)

February 16, 2023

Rodeo-Hercules Fire Protection District Board  
C/O Tara Shaia, Board Candidate  
1680 Refugio Valley Road  
Hercules, CA 94547

Dear Rodeo-Hercules Fire Protection District Board,

I urge you to appoint Tara Shaia to the vacant board seat. Candidate Shaia has submitted the most competitive, comprehensive and thorough application when compared to the other applications posted to the District's website.

Candidate Shaia is the only candidate who participated in the 2022 Election process for vacant Board of Director seats. On the campaign trail, Candidate Shaia communicated her astute executive mindset and keen ability to evaluate the complexities of the district. She communicated a thoughtful and fair assessment of the District's public information regarding its challenges and successes. Candidate Shaia communicated she would work in collaboration with the Board to evaluate factual data to provide guidance to the Fire Chief on the will of the Board. Candidate Shaia discussed her desires and abilities to evaluate information without bias, and a high desire to work with the Fire Chief, city officials, and community. She is committed to ensuring the best economic decisions are made to support the district and communities it serves.

Candidate Shaia has established she is the most competent professional executive candidate for appointment. Her management experience with administering city programs and staff, budgets, working with vendors, and her decades of commitment to community advocacy position her as the best fit as a director. You will maximize the board's collective fairness and reasonableness by appointing Candidate Shaia to the vacant district seat. I am confident Candidate Shaia will aid this district's leadership efficiencies. Candidate Shaia has the emotional intelligence to aid this district in garnering community and fire staff trust.

I sincerely believe Candidate Shaia's leadership skills, and ability to focus on the board's fiduciary responsibilities will promote success and transparency for the district. Candidate Shaia's application establishes she is the most qualified administrator who is desperately needed to bring stability to the district. Please be encouraged to appoint Tara Shaia to the vacant district seat.

Sincerely,



Tanya Little Retired California Governor's Appointee  
Pinole, Rodeo, Hercules, El Sobrante for Equity & Diversity (PHREED) Co-Founder  
Friends of the Hercules Senior Center Board President  
30-year City of Hercules Resident

cc: Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors

*Great Organizations demand a high level of commitment by the people involved ~ Bill Gates*

Date: 2/17/2023

To: Board of Directors RHFD.

Re: Recommendation for Tara Shaia.

To whom it may concern:

I am writing to recommend Tara Shaia for a position in the board of The Rodeo-Hercules Fire Dept.

I am Liana Ruslim, a volunteer in the Pinole Senior Center helping in the kitchen as Tara is the chef & head of the kitchen .

I believe her leadership & organizational skills will be suitable for a position on the board.

She treats all volunteers fairly, listens to suggestions, is assertive and works hard. Tara pays attention to details, deals well with all kind of personalities & races and is able to communicate well with everyone. She always has a positive attitude and remains calm under pressure.

She organizes all aspect of the kitchen from volunteers, the menu, fund raising, groceries and all the day to day operations of the kitchen. She is always on time for seniors to pick up the meals.

She will be a great asset for the Rodeo -Hercules community if she is appointed to be in the board of RHFD.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Liana Ruslim", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the left.

Liana Ruslim  
Retiree- volunteer in Pinole Senior Center .  
510- 914-0496  
laprina12@gmail.com

**From:** [John.Green.1985](#)  
**To:** [Kimberly Corcoran](#)  
**Subject:** Support for Robyn Mikel  
**Date:** Wednesday, February 22, 2023 9:13:49 AM

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Dear RHFD Board,

I am writing in support of Robyn Mikel for RHFD Board of Directors. I believe Robyn deserves to have a chance at being a board member. Her insight and previous experience would be a welcome addition. I believe she will bring much needed balance, impartiality and fairness to the board, which seems to be deeply divided.

Thank you,

Mr. John Green  
Hercules, CA

Sent with [Proton Mail](#) secure email.



**From:** [Tammy Tomas](#)  
**To:** [Kimberly Corcoran](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Robyn Mikel  
**Date:** Wednesday, February 22, 2023 9:11:14 AM

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**From:** HEATHER GIBSON <gibsonk9cop@comcast.net>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 21, 2023 5:23 PM  
**To:** Tammy Tomas <Tomas@rhfd.org>  
**Subject:** Robyn Mikel

Hello,

I have been a 25+ year resident of Hercules and have seen many board members for RHFD come and go. I would like to show support to preserve Robyn Mikel on the board. I have listened to the board meetings and I am impressed with her desire to improve our fire district and keeping an open mind. She does not have a preset agenda, as many past and current board members do. Not keeping her on the board would be a grave mis-service to the residents of the RHFD.

Thank you,  
Heather Gibson  
Sparrow Drive  
Hercules, CA

**From:** [Christine Peterson](#)  
**To:** [Kimberly Corcoran](#)  
**Subject:** Board vacancy  
**Date:** Wednesday, February 22, 2023 2:30:21 AM

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Please choose Robyn Mikel for your vacancy. After watching several board meetings and reading the applications that were submitted, it is clear that Robyn is the only choice for a well-balanced board. She should not be punished or criticized by any board member or member of the public for putting her name in the hat after stepping down because she wanted to do the right thing. Put your own personal agendas aside and vote for the only candidate that makes sense.

**From:** [Juan Carlos](#)  
**To:** [Kimberly Corcoran](#); [Tammy Tomas](#)  
**Subject:** Robyn Mikel  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 21, 2023 6:55:50 PM

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I would like to request the re-election of Robyn Mikel, as she is the best candidate for the board of directors position. She knows more about life in the fire service than any other candidate, and she will help to improve the lives of our firefighters.  
Concerned Rodeo resident

**From:** [CHARLES COLEMAN](#)  
**To:** [Kimberly Corcoran](#); [Tammy Tomas](#)  
**Subject:** Letter of support  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 21, 2023 6:53:21 PM

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----- Original Message -----

**From:** Chuck <[cfiredude@comcast.net](mailto:cfiredude@comcast.net)>  
**To:** Tammy Tomas <[Tomas@rhfd.org](mailto:Tomas@rhfd.org)>  
**Date:** 02/21/2023 5:05 PM  
**Subject:** Letter of support

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** Chuck <[cfiredude@comcast.net](mailto:cfiredude@comcast.net)>  
**Date:** February 21, 2023 at 4:01:55 PM PST  
**To:** Tammy Tomas <[Tomas@rhfd.org](mailto:Tomas@rhfd.org)>  
**Subject:** Letter of support

Good evening RHFD board. I am sending a letter of support for Robyn Mikel to be re-appointed to the board as a board of director. As you know Robyn Mikel was previously misdirected by legal counsel and felt she had to resign so she could re-run or be appointed again. Had she not resigned, hundreds of thousands of dollars would have been spent for a new election. Robyn has shown an open mind and has been praised by other board members for her strong work and dedication to the Rodeo-Hercules district. With the strategic plan needing to be implemented as soon as possible, and the tasks that need to be completed to make that happen I believe bringing on a new person with little to no experience would take months if not longer to bring them up to speed to be able to make decisions that we needed done yesterday. Robyn Mikel is ready to hit the ground running and help make those decisions to better serve the citizens of Rodeo Hercules Fire District.

Thank you,  
Captain Chuck Coleman  
37 years with RHFD  
56-year resident of Rodeo

**From:** [Tammy Tomas](#)  
**To:** [Kimberly Corcoran](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Board Vacancy  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 21, 2023 4:26:19 PM

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**From:** John Bischoff <jabischoff@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 21, 2023 3:49 PM  
**To:** Tammy Tomas <Tomas@rhfd.org>  
**Cc:** Darren Johnson <Johnsond@rhfd.org>  
**Subject:** Board Vacancy

Chief Johnson and Board of Directors,

Good afternoon,

I am writing this email today as a show of support for former RHFD Board Director as well as current Board Candidate, Robyn Mikel.

During her short time as a Rodeo Hercules Board Director, Robyn exceeded my expectations. As a 23 year employee of the District as well as our seating IAFF 1230 Union Representative, I have seen my share of Board Members come and go. Most of these past Directors barely left a ripple in the history of our District.

Robyn came in running, she took great interest in both our Firefighters Mental Health, as well as our District's fiscal health and sustainability.

Her time as a Director was cut short due to confusion as well as lack of communication by multiple parties. None of the fault however, was that of Director Mikel's.

Hopefully the Board in the interest of "What's best for the District, it's citizen's served, as well as the Firefighter's serving" can look past "Personal Agendas" and choose Robyn Mikels to fill "Her" vacant Board Seat and get back to the business of protecting both the Citizen's of Rodeo Hercules as well as their Firefighters.

Regards,  
John Bischoff

**From:** [elaine wander](#)  
**To:** [Kimberly Corcoran](#)  
**Subject:** Letter of support for Tara Shaia to the RHFD Board  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 21, 2023 4:09:33 PM

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Hello,

I have lived in Rodeo for 33 years and know we need a very competent person to represent us on the fire district board. That person is Tara Shaia. I talked with her about what she thinks the best ways to protect Rodeo from accidents occurring at the refinery (Phillips66) are and also about our Rodeo Fire Station, Her answers about cooperation between the refinery and our fire department and maintaining our Rodeo Station were very good. Also, that the Fire department team have the skills to handle all the hazards that go with these fuels being made so close to our town. Spills, toxins, odors, explosions, derailments, etc.... I think Ms. Shaia would best represent us in Rodeo and Hercules (her awareness of issues around open space and fire safety) and be an asset to the fire district.

Thank you,  
Elaine Wander Leclaire

**From:** [Steve Hill](#)  
**To:** [Kimberly Corcoran](#); [Tammy Tomas](#)  
**Cc:** [Darren Johnson](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Letter of support for Tara Shaia  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 21, 2023 2:24:21 PM

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Kimberly, Tammy:

In case you have not received this board correspondence...

Steve

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone

----- Original message -----

From: Elizabeth <[egie5@yahoo.com](mailto:egie5@yahoo.com)>  
Date: 2/20/23 22:13 (GMT-08:00)  
To: Steve Hill <[Hill@rhfd.org](mailto:Hill@rhfd.org)>, Charles Davidson <[Davidson@rhfd.org](mailto:Davidson@rhfd.org)>, Marie Bowman <[Bowman@rhfd.org](mailto: Bowman@rhfd.org)>, Delano Doss <[doss@rhfd.org](mailto:doss@rhfd.org)>  
Subject: Letter of support for Tara Shaia

February 20, 2023

Rodeo-Hercules Fire District

I would like to let you know of my support of Tara Shaia for the fifth seat on the RHFD Board. Tara has a good head on her shoulders, compassionate and is very aware of her community. She has been involved regularly with the RHFD zoom meetings often contributing comments.

As you probably know, Ms. Shaia is a long time Rodeo resident (3<sup>rd</sup> generation). She is the chef at the Pinole Senior Center. She IS involved in her community. Let's get her more involved.

I am the manager at the Rodeo Senior Center and a member of the Measure O Oversight Committee.

Thank you for your attention,

Elizabeth Genai





Tara Shaia

For Appointment to the Rodeo-Hercules Fire District

This additional packet contains the following letters of support:

Ana Aviles Avila	President of AFSCME/Local 1; Unit of the City of Pinole
Elizabeth Genai	Rodeo Resident, Manager of Rodeo Senior Center, and Member of Measure O Oversight Committee
Robin Raber-Luna	Co-Worker

## Letter of Support

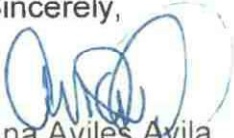
February 21, 2023

Rodeo-Hercules Fire District Board

I would like to support Tara Shaia to her appointment to the Rodeo-Hercules Fire District Board. Tara is in good standing with AFSCME/Local 1. Tara is fair and unbiased at all the meetings, and I like her eagerness to serve at different times we have needed her. Being a union member is very important to Tara and us, she is always advocating for fairness throughout not just in her department but for all of us. Tara posses the ability and skills to work with volunteers and with lots of skills on management and team building. Always has a positive attitude.

Tara is a life-long resident of Rodeo and want to serve her community. I support her to be appointed to the Rodeo-Hercules Fire District Board.

Sincerely,



Ana Aviles Avila

President of AFSCME/Local 1  
Unit of the City of Pinole



Rodeo Citizen <citizenr572@gmail.com>

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## Support letter

1 message

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Elizabeth <egie5@yahoo.com>

Mon, Feb 20, 2023 at 10:07 PM

To: "CitizenR572@gmail.com" <CitizenR572@gmail.com>

February 20, 2023

Rodeo-Hercules Fire District

I would like to let you know of my support of Tara Shaia for the fifth seat on the RHFD Board. Tara has a good head on her shoulders, compassionate and is very aware of her community. She has been involved regularly with the RHFD zoom meetings often contributing comments.

As you probably know, Ms. Shaia is a long time Rodeo resident (3<sup>rd</sup> generation). She is the chef at the Pinole Senior Center. She IS involved in her community. Let's get her more involved.

I am the manager at the Rodeo Senior Center and a member of the Measure O Oversight Committee.

Thank you for your attention,

Elizabeth Genai

February 21, 2023

To whom it may concern,

It is with great pleasure that I write this letter of recommendation in support of Tara Shaia becoming a Director of the Rodeo-Hercules Fire District. I've known Ms. Shaia for over 7 years working with her at the Pinole Senior Center.

Ms. Shaia consistently and impressively displays qualities that make her an ideal candidate. She is very in tune with the needs of the communities she'd represent and can also balance those with any fiscal implications. She is a true advocate of what are the key issues of importance to the cities and its citizens to improve and continue the high standards and qualities needed for a successful and healthy community.

She has a true passion, dedication and commitment to the safety and health concerns in Rodeo and Hercules and is able to present concrete viewpoints that take into consideration the pros and cons of an issue. Her approach is honest and forthright and always with the goal of creating a positive impact.

I highly recommend Ms. Shaia and am confident she will be a valuable asset as a Director of the RHFD.

Robin Raber-Luna

**From:** [Tammy Tomas](#)  
**To:** [Kimberly Corcoran](#)  
**Subject:** Fwd: Board seat vacancy  
**Date:** Wednesday, February 22, 2023 4:27:24 PM

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Tammy

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** Brian Solidum <briansolidum@gmail.com>  
**Date:** February 22, 2023 at 3:57:38 PM PST  
**To:** Tammy Tomas <tomas@rhfd.org>  
**Subject: Board seat vacancy**

To the Board of Directors,

I am writing in support of Robyn Mikel for the vacant seat for the Rodeo Hercules Fire Protection District, Board of Directors. During her previous tenure on the Board, Robyn has shown deep interest for the best of the future for our Fire District, it's employees and the safety of the community in which we serve. Robyn has demonstrated intimate knowledge of the fire service and how the fire service operates, has an open mind and supports progressive problem solving. As a 21 year employee and a Captain of this Fire District, I am supporting Robyn Mike for the best candidate for this position.

Brian Solidum

**From:** [Tammy Tomas](#)  
**To:** [Kimberly Corcoran](#)  
**Subject:** Fwd: Board Vacancy  
**Date:** Wednesday, February 22, 2023 4:27:16 PM

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Tammy

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** Lina Gibson <linamarie.v17@gmail.com>  
**Date:** February 22, 2023 at 4:10:39 PM PST  
**To:** Tammy Tomas <tomas@rhfd.org>  
**Subject: Board Vacancy**

Dear board member,

I have lived in Hercules my entire life and am writing to voice my support for Robyn Mikel for the RHFD board. She has shown a strong commitment to the community. Her open mind is what the board needs as we head for difficult decisions to be made. I strongly support her as board member.

Thank you,  
Lina Gibson

**From:** [Tammy Tomas](#)  
**To:** [Kimberly Corcoran](#)  
**Subject:** Fwd: Board vacancy  
**Date:** Wednesday, February 22, 2023 4:27:10 PM

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Tammy

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** savannah Mills <savannahemma.lillie.mills@gmail.com>  
**Date:** February 22, 2023 at 4:24:57 PM PST  
**To:** Tammy Tomas <tomas@rhfd.org>  
**Subject:** Board vacancy

Hello,

My name is Savannah mills, and I've been a resident of rodeo since I was born. I'm very appreciative of my fire department as I've faced the tragedy of being in a house fire. My house fire has allowed me to have a deeper sense of appreciation for my fire department and everyone behind the scenes. Which is why I want to support preserving Robyn Mikel for RHFB. Her determination and willfulness to help is needed within both city's and the leader we look towards.

Thank you,  
Savannah mills  
Hawthorne Dr  
Rodeo, Ca