

The Sunset Volatility: A Forensic Analysis of Governance Failure in San Francisco District 4 (2024-2025)

1. Introduction: The Political Ecology of the Outer Sunset

The political destabilization of San Francisco's District 4—encompassing the Sunset, Parkside, and Outer Sunset neighborhoods—between late 2024 and late 2025 represents a singular case study in municipal volatility, executive vetting failure, and the friction between progressive urbanism and neighborhood conservatism. What began as a localized policy dispute regarding the closure of the Upper Great Highway metastasized into a systemic crisis of governance, culminating in the recall of a sitting supervisor, the catastrophic appointment of an unqualified successor, and a subsequent resignation that exposed deep fissures in the city's executive branch.

District 4 has long functioned as a distinct political ecosystem within San Francisco. Often described as a "suburb within the city," it is characterized by a high density of single-family homes, a substantial population of Asian-American homeowners (particularly of Chinese descent), and a political temperament that is markedly more moderate than the eastern districts of the city. While the Mission and the Haight have historically driven San Francisco's progressive reputation, the Sunset has prioritized public safety, clean streets, and vehicular access—priorities that often put it at odds with the "urbanist" agenda of City Hall.

This report provides an exhaustive reconstruction of the events surrounding the recall of Supervisor Joel Engardio, the appointment and rapid resignation of Isabella "Beya" Alcaraz, and the stabilizing appointment of Alan Wong. It analyzes the failure of the Lurie Administration's vetting protocols, the specific fiscal and sanitary scandals that brought down the Alcaraz appointment, and the broader historical context of corruption and instability that has plagued District 4 representation for decades.

1.1 Scope of Analysis

This report dissects the crisis through three distinct phases:

1. **The Precursor (The Recall):** The ideological conflict over Proposition K and the removal of Joel Engardio.
2. **The Crisis (The Alcaraz Tenure):** The selection process, the vetting failure, and the forensic details of the "Animal Connection" scandal.
3. **The Correction (The Wong Appointment):** The return to institutional stability and the

future outlook for the district.

2. The Precursor: The Recall of Joel Engardio and the Great Highway

To understand the vacuum that allowed for the appointment of Isabella Alcaraz, one must first analyze the removal of her predecessor, Joel Engardio. The recall of Supervisor Engardio in September 2025 was a historic event, marking the first successful recall of a sitting supervisor in San Francisco history.¹ This was not a recall driven by corruption or criminal malfeasance, but by a profound disconnect between a representative and his constituents on a single, defining issue: the future of the Upper Great Highway.

2.1 The Great Highway Controversy (Proposition K)

The central catalyst for the recall was the debate over the Upper Great Highway, a coastal roadway that had served as a critical commuting artery for residents of the Outer Sunset connecting to the peninsula and downtown. During the COVID-19 pandemic, the highway was temporarily closed to vehicles to provide outdoor recreation space, initiating a fierce battle over its permanent status.

This conflict crystallized in **Proposition K**, a ballot measure proposing the permanent closure of the Upper Great Highway to private vehicles to create a pedestrian park, eventually named "Sunset Dunes".²

2.1.1 The Urbanist Vision vs. Neighborhood Reality

The schism over Proposition K represented a classic conflict between city-wide urbanist ideals and local neighborhood utility.

- **The Proponent Argument (The "Parks" Perspective):** Supporters, including Supervisor Engardio, championed the closure as a visionary transformation of the coastline. They argued that "Sunset Dunes" would be a practical way to bring tourism to the beach, mitigate coastal erosion impacts by re-routing cars, and create a seamless pedestrian-friendly walkway.² The urbanist coalition viewed the highway as an anachronism in a city striving to reduce car dependency.
- **The Opposition Argument (The "Commuter" Perspective):** Residents of the Sunset, particularly those living in the adjacent "avenues" (residential streets running perpendicular to the ocean), viewed the highway not as a luxury, but as essential infrastructure. Opponents argued that the closure would force thousands of daily commuters off the highway and onto the "otherwise safe and quiet residential streets," increasing congestion, noise, and danger for children and seniors.² For the working families of the Sunset, many of whom commute to the South Bay or downtown, the

highway was a seamless option for travel that kept traffic out of their front yards.

2.2 The Betrayal Narrative

The recall momentum was fueled not just by the policy itself, but by the perception of betrayal. Joel Engardio had been elected as a moderate who listened to the concerns of the district's homeowners. His full-throated endorsement of Proposition K was interpreted by his base as a capitulation to city-wide activist groups at the expense of his own constituents.

As noted by Albert Chow, a Taraval Street hardware store owner and key figure in the recall, the community demanded a representative who "really represents them," rather than one who prioritized city-wide prestige projects.⁴ The sentiment was that Engardio was "unwilling to engage with his constituents" and had prioritized his ideological alignment with the "urbanist" faction over the tangible quality-of-life concerns of the residents.⁵

2.3 The Success of the Recall

In September 2025, the recall effort succeeded. While Proposition K passed city-wide in November 2024², the voters of District 4 simultaneously moved to punish the representative who supported it. This created a paradoxical political landscape: the policy (the park) was enacted, but the politician (Engardio) was removed.

This unique set of circumstances left the District 4 seat vacant, transferring the power of appointment to Mayor Daniel Lurie. The Mayor, relatively new to his office, faced intense pressure to appoint a successor who could heal the rift in the district. Instead, the administration's selection process would precipitate a scandal far more damaging than the policy dispute that preceded it.

3. The Appointment of Isabella "Beya" Alcaraz

Following the removal of Engardio, Mayor Daniel Lurie was tasked with appointing a replacement to serve until the next election. This period, described by observers as a "scramble"⁶, resulted in the selection of 29-year-old Isabella "Beya" Alcaraz on November 6, 2025.

3.1 The Selection Narrative: "The Night Market Pitch"

The official narrative regarding Alcaraz's selection, disseminated by the Mayor's office, highlighted the informal and impulsive nature of the process. This narrative was intended to portray the Mayor as accessible and the appointee as a "citizen-legislator," but in retrospect, it revealed a catastrophic lack of procedural rigor.

- **The Meeting:** According to the Mayor's office, Alcaraz approached Mayor Lurie at a

neighborhood night market in the Sunset shortly after the Engardio recall in September/October 2025.²

- **The Pitch:** Alcaraz introduced herself as a lifelong Sunset resident and a small business owner. She pitched herself as a "fit for the job" based on her deep roots in the district and her understanding of the community's struggles.²
- **The "Vibes" Decision:** Mayor Lurie was reportedly drawn to her "grit and determination" as a small business owner.² He publicly described her as a "bridge builder and problem solver" who understood the regulatory burdens of the city, citing an anecdote where she spent \$1,000 and waited six months for approval to install an outdoor shed.⁹

Critically, this selection appeared to be driven by "optics and relationships over process".¹¹ Alcaraz checked several demographic and political boxes: she was young (29), a woman of color (the first Filipina American Supervisor), a lifelong resident, and a small business owner.⁹ She was viewed as a "blank slate" with "no known positions on anything," which presumably appealed to a Mayor seeking a loyalist appointee.¹²

3.2 Profile of the Appointee

At the time of her appointment, Alcaraz's public profile was constructed around a specific set of credentials that, while appealing on paper, crumbled under scrutiny.

3.2.1 Educational and Professional Background

- **Education:** While early reports described her as an "art and music teacher" ⁹, later clarifications revealed she did not hold a college degree. She had attended City College of San Francisco and Diablo Valley College but had not graduated from either.¹³ This lack of formal credentialing was not a disqualifier in itself, but it stood in stark contrast to the highly educated demographics of the San Francisco political class.
- **Business Ownership:** Her primary qualification was her ownership of "The Animal Connection," a pet supply store on Irving Street, which she operated for six years starting at age 22.⁹ The Mayor's office presented this as evidence of executive capability and fiscal responsibility.

3.2.2 The Narrative of "Deep Roots"

The administration leaned heavily on her biography as a "daughter of the Sunset." Her parents met at San Francisco State University and worked at Holy Name School; her mother was a parish manager and her father an athletic director.⁹ This narrative was designed to counter the "carpetbagger" accusations that had plagued previous D4 representatives like Ed Jew and Leanna Louie.

3.3 The Vetting Failure

The brevity of the selection process—occurring weeks after a chance meeting at a night

market—raised immediate concerns among political observers. The failure of the Mayor's vetting team was total and absolute.

- **Lack of Contact with Successors:** It was revealed post-appointment that the Mayor's office never contacted Julia Baran, the woman who bought Alcaraz's business in May 2025, to verify the condition of the business or the nature of the transaction.¹³ A single phone call to the location of her primary credential would have revealed the scandal.
- **Ignoring Public Records:** A basic search would have revealed that the business had been operating at a loss for years and had a history of health code violations.¹³
- **The "Blank Slate" Fallacy:** By prioritizing a candidate with no political track record (and thus no "paper trail" of votes), the administration assumed safety. However, they failed to investigate her private sector paper trail, which proved far more damaging.

Despite these latent risks, Alcaraz was sworn in on November 6, 2025. In her swearing-in speech, she promised to "actually include" residents and hinted at a willingness to compromise on the Great Highway closure, stating, "If that means working towards a compromise on the Great Highway, then that's what we'll do".⁵

4. The Anatomy of a Scandal: "The Animal Connection"

Within days of Alcaraz taking the oath of office, her tenure began to disintegrate. The catalyst was not a policy disagreement, but a forensic exposure of her history as a business owner. The revelation was driven by Julia Baran, the 26-year-old woman who purchased "The Animal Connection" from Alcaraz in May 2025.¹²

Baran, who had taken over the business expecting a turnkey operation, instead found a facility in a state of biohazardous neglect. Feeling that the Mayor's description of Alcaraz as a model business owner was a fraudulent misrepresentation, Baran approached the media.

4.1 The Health and Safety Violations

The conditions within the pet store, as described by the new owner and corroborated by visual evidence released to the *San Francisco Standard* and *Mission Local*, were catastrophic. The store was not merely cluttered; it was a site of severe animal neglect and sanitation failure.

4.1.1 Documented Violations

The evidence provided by Baran included videos and photographs taken at the time of the handover in May 2025.

Violation Category	Specific Details Documented	Source
Rodent Infestation	"Hundreds of dead mice" were discovered beneath shelving units on the sales floor. Video evidence showed masses of dead rodents and feces behind inventory racks.	7
Sanitation Failure	Cages were covered in rodent urine. Baran described a layer of "pee and dust and poop" coating the walls, cabinets, and inventory, rendering much of the stock unsellable.	13
Deceased Animals	A freezer was found filled with dozens of deceased pets. Approximately 40 dead animals were left behind in the store upon the sale.	7
Atmospheric Conditions	The facility was described as "smelling like death," a persistent odor resulting from the decomposition of rodents and accumulated waste.	7
Live Animal Neglect	Reptiles kept in the back of the store were found in cages covered with mouse urine and feces, raising questions about animal cruelty.	16

4.1.2 City Inspection History

The narrative that these conditions were a sudden deterioration was contradicted by city records. The San Francisco Department of Public Health had visited "The Animal Connection" at least five times between 2023 and 2024 following complaints.

- **July 2023 Inspection:** Inspectors explicitly noted "rodent droppings all over the place i.e. floors, windows, shelves, etc.," "bird feces in cages that are not being cleaned," and "flies all over the place".¹³
- **Warning Issued:** The city had issued a formal warning to Alcaraz regarding these conditions long before her appointment as Supervisor.¹⁶

4.2 The Financial Disarray

Beyond the physical state of the store, the financial health of the business was dire, contradicting the Mayor's praise of her business acumen.

- **Operating Losses:** Financial records indicated the shop operated at a loss from 2020 to 2023, losing tens of thousands of dollars annually.¹³
- **Rent Arrears:** The business had fallen behind on rent during certain periods, indicating insolvency.¹⁴
- **Lease Deception:** Alcaraz allegedly failed to inform the buyer (Baran) that the lease on the store was expiring in January 2026, shortly after the sale, effectively selling a business with no secured location.¹²

This reality stood in stark contrast to the Mayor's narrative of Alcaraz as a gritty, successful small business owner. Instead, the evidence painted a portrait of a negligent operator who had presided over a collapsing, unsanitary enterprise and then unloaded it onto an unsuspecting buyer.

5. The Legal and Ethical Crisis: The "Tax Fraud" Texts

If the condition of the pet store damaged Alcaraz's reputation, the release of her text messages by *Mission Local* created legal and ethical liabilities that made her position untenable. These messages, exchanged with Julia Baran during the sale process in March 2025, contained direct admissions of tax avoidance, labor law violations, and fiscal fraud.

5.1 "Under the Table" Payments

In a text message regarding payroll costs, Alcaraz explicitly admitted to bypassing tax obligations to lower her overhead.

- **The Text Message:** *"It will be less, since I pay people under the table now, but that's payroll taxes and sales tax mostly".*¹³

- **The Legal Implication:** This admission constitutes a potential violation of California Labor Code and federal tax laws. By paying employees in cash ("under the table"), Alcaraz was:
 1. Defrauding the state and federal government of payroll taxes.
 2. Denying employees access to Unemployment Insurance (UI), Social Security contributions, and workers' compensation coverage.
 3. Likely underpaying workers below the minimum wage, as "under the table" arrangements often circumvent wage floors.
- **The Defense:** In a statement issued just hours before her resignation, Alcaraz attempted to reframe this illegality as altruism. She stated, *"I paid the young people who came to work in my store because I believe in my core that young people in my community... deserve to be paid for their work"*.¹⁷ This defense was widely dismissed by legal experts and the public as a cynical attempt to cloak tax evasion in the language of social justice.

5.2 Tax Fraud via Lifestyle Expenses

A second set of messages detailed a systematic approach to writing off personal lifestyle expenses as business costs to reduce tax liability.

- **The Text Message:** *"I also live off a big portion of the non cash revenue... I spend expense [sic] a bit of money on my personal life so I can use it as a tax deduction. E.g. I pay for my dinner and drinks with my friends or 'clients' as a business expense and then they may or may not pay me back in cash. When you see meals and entertainment, office meals, travel, etc that's usually what that's for"*.¹⁷
- **The Forensic Analysis:** Jerry Dratler, a retired accountant and former Chief Accounting Officer of Williams Sonoma, characterized these texts as *"tantamount to an admission that she filed [false returns]"*.¹³ This is a textbook definition of tax fraud: claiming personal consumption (dinners with friends) as a business expense to lower taxable income.
- **Scale of Unreported Income:** She estimated in the texts that the business held perhaps \$75,000 in cash *"on top of the reported revenue,"* further suggesting a significant stream of unreported income.¹³

5.3 The Political Tipping Point

These revelations moved the scandal from "mismanagement" to "criminality." A Supervisor is responsible for voting on the city's \$14 billion budget and overseeing tax revenue allocation. The Mayor's office could no longer defend an appointee who had bragged about evading the very taxes that fund the city services she was sworn to oversee. The "text message dump" on the evening of Thursday, November 13, made her resignation inevitable.

6. The Resignation: An Eight-Day Tenure

The pressure on Alcaraz and Mayor Lurie peaked on Thursday, November 13, 2025, just one week (eight days) after her swearing-in. The rapidity of the collapse was unprecedented in San Francisco political history.

6.1 The Timeline of Collapse

The dismantling of the Alcaraz supervisor tenure occurred over a compressed 72-hour period.

Date	Time	Event	Source
Nov 6	Day	Swearing In. Alcaraz takes office. Mayor praises her "grit."	2
Nov 10	Morning	The First Strike. <i>SF Standard</i> publishes the "dead mice" report.	16
Nov 11-12	All Day	The Defense. Mayor Lurie defends the appointment, citing her youth and claiming she was "absolutely" vetted.	2
Nov 13	5:30 PM	The Fatal Blow. <i>Mission Local</i> publishes the text messages admitting to tax fraud.	17
Nov 13	9:30 PM	The Resignation. Mayor Lurie announces Alcaraz	17

		will step down.	
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6.2 The "Went Back" Narrative: A Lack of Commitment

A crucial, under-reported aspect of the resignation was Alcaraz's apparent lack of long-term commitment to the city or the role—the idea that she "went back" or intended to go back to a private life outside the US.

Investigative reporting by *The Voice SF* uncovered older posts and communications where Alcaraz had expressed a desire to move *"semi-permanently"* to the Philippines to be with her family.¹⁸ In a letter related to the sale of her business, she wrote: *"My family has moved to the Philippines, and they are incredibly important to me. Frankly, I miss them, and my priorities have shifted to being able to move semi-permanently to the Philippines"*.¹⁸

This revelation added a layer of absurdity to the appointment. Not only was she unqualified and legally compromised, but she had actively been planning to leave the country prior to "raising her hand" at the night market. Her resignation allowed her to "go back" to her private plans, leaving the district in chaos. Following her resignation, she did not announce any plans to remain in civic life, effectively vanishing from the political stage.¹⁴

6.3 The Resignation Statements

The statements released by both parties attempted to salvage dignity while acknowledging the impossibility of her continuing.

- **Mayor Lurie:** *"I spoke to Supervisor Alcaraz tonight. She and I agreed... that the new information about her conduct while running her small business, which I learned today, would be a significant distraction"*.¹⁹ Notably, Lurie took full responsibility, a move intended to shield his staff but which highlighted his own judgment failure: *"I regret that I didn't do more to make sure she could succeed"*.¹⁹
- **Beya Alcaraz:** *"I understand that today's news stories would distract me from doing that [serving the community]"*.⁷ She did not publicly admit to tax fraud in her resignation statement, focusing instead on the "distraction" caused by the media coverage.

7. The Correction: The Appointment of Alan Wong

With the District 4 seat vacant for the second time in months, Mayor Lurie faced an existential political crisis. The "scramble" described by sources ⁶ ended with the selection of Alan Wong, a choice designed to project maximum stability and competence.

7.1 Profile of Alan Wong

Alan Wong represented the antithesis of the Alcaraz appointment. Where Alcaraz was a

novice with a clouded history, Wong was an established public servant with a verifiable, "boring" track record.

- **Current Role:** President of the City College of San Francisco (CCSF) Board of Trustees.²⁰ He was re-elected to the Board in November 2024, demonstrating current electoral viability and vetting by the voters.²⁰
- **Military Service:** A 15-year veteran of the California National Guard/United States Army.² This credential appealed to the conservative/moderate elements of the Sunset who value discipline and service.
- **Education:** Bachelor's degree from UC San Diego and a Master's degree in Public Affairs from the University of San Francisco (USF).²⁰
- **Professional History:** Worked as a legislative aide, education policy advisor (2019-2020), and union organizer (2013-2019).²⁰

7.2 The Stabilization Narrative

Mayor Lurie framed Wong's appointment as a return to adults-in-the-room governance.

- **The Announcement:** Wong was appointed on December 1, 2025, and sworn in immediately.²⁰
- **The Rationale:** Lurie emphasized that Wong *"lives and breathes the district"* but, crucially, *"comes with public service experience, unlike the preceding appointee"*.² This was a tacit admission that the "outsider" experiment had failed.

7.3 Wong's Strategic Positioning

Wong immediately addressed the core fissures in the district, specifically the Great Highway.

- **On Prop K (Great Highway):** Wong revealed he personally voted "No" on Proposition K, aligning himself with the majority of his District 4 constituents who opposed the closure.² This immediately established his bona fides with the anti-Engardio coalition.
- **On Governance:** He acknowledged the *"status quo is unacceptable"* regarding the division in the community and pledged to *"heal a divided community"*.²

7.4 Community Reaction

The response to Wong's appointment was largely relief.

- **Lucas Lux (Friends of Sunset Dunes):** Despite Wong's "No" vote on Prop K, Lux supported the appointment, stating the neighborhood needs *"a leader who can show us the way forward, not work to destroy Sunset Dunes park"*.²
 - **Donald Luu (Chinese Chamber of Commerce):** Stated, *"I think District 4 is coming to a moment of clarity and stability"*.²
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8. Historical Context: The "Curse" of District 4

The Alcaraz scandal cannot be viewed in isolation. It is the latest chapter in a decades-long history of political dysfunction, corruption, and instability in District 4. The Sunset has acquired a reputation for "bizarre politics" and "bad karma".⁴

8.1 The Precedents of Corruption

District 4 has been the launchpad for some of San Francisco's most notorious political criminals.

- **Leland Yee (The Gun Runner):** Yee served as the D4 Supervisor (elected in 2000) before moving to the State Senate. His career ended in a spectacular FBI raid. He was convicted of racketeering for promising to smuggle guns from the Philippines to an undercover agent posing as a Mafia associate, in exchange for campaign contributions.⁴ While his crimes occurred after his time in D4, he remains the district's most infamous alumnus.
- **Ed Jew (The Extortionist):** Elected to represent D4 in 2006, Ed Jew's tenure ended in federal prison. He was convicted of extorting local businesses—specifically demanding \$80,000 from an Irving Street boba tea shop in exchange for permit assistance. Furthermore, investigations revealed he did not actually live in the Sunset (District 4) but in Burlingame, lying about his residency to run for office.⁴
- **Leanna Louie (The Candidate):** In 2022, candidate Leanna Louie was removed from the ballot after an investigation by the City Attorney proved she did not meet residency requirements (she lived in District 10). During the controversy, she referred to a Jewish journalist as "Joe EskeNAZI," highlighting the chaotic nature of D4 candidate pools.²¹

8.2 Structural Instability

Why is District 4 so volatile? The answer lies in its demographics and geography.

- **Insularity:** The Sunset is geographically isolated from the city center. This often leads to candidates who are "neighborhood famous" but lack the rigorous vetting of the city-wide political machine.
- **The Moderate/Progressive Fault Line:** D4 is the battleground where the city's progressive housing and transit policies collide with a conservative, homeowner-centric voter base. Representatives are constantly squeezed between the demands of City Hall activists and the anger of their constituents (as seen with Engardio).

The Alcaraz scandal fits into this lineage not as a crime of sophisticated corruption (like Yee), but as a failure of basic competence. It reinforces the narrative that D4 struggles to find stable representation that is both legally compliant and politically attuned to the district.

9. Broader Political Implications

The Alcaraz affair has had ripple effects beyond the Sunset, damaging the credibility of the Lurie Administration and altering the trajectory of key city policies.

9.1 The Failure of "Vibes" Governance

Critics have argued that the Alcaraz appointment exemplified a style of governance based on "vibes"—relying on optics, identity, and personal chemistry rather than process and qualification.¹¹

- **The "Blank Slate" Strategy:** Lurie attempted to appoint someone outside the existing political factions to avoid alienating either side. This backfired because "outsiders" often lack the scrutiny that filters out problematic candidates.
- **Vetting Reform:** The scandal has forced an immediate overhaul of the Mayor's appointments office. The realization that the administration failed to make a single phone call to a previous employer has shattered the image of Lurie as a technocratic manager.¹¹

9.2 The Future of the "Family Zoning Plan"

The next major battleground for Supervisor Wong is the Mayor's **"Family Zoning Plan,"** which proposes upzoning the west side (including the Sunset) to allow for taller, denser housing.¹⁰

- **The Challenge:** This plan is deeply unpopular with the same homeowners who recalled Engardio. Wong must navigate the state deadline (January 31, 2026) to approve a housing plan or risk the "builder's remedy," which would allow developers to bypass local zoning entirely.¹⁰
- **Wong's Position:** Wong has pledged to "heal the divide," suggesting he will likely seek amendments to soften the plan's impact on the Sunset's character, acting as a buffer between the Mayor's density goals and the neighborhood's preservationist instincts.

9.3 The June 2026 Election

Wong is an appointee, not an elected supervisor. To keep the seat, he must run in June 2026 to finish the remainder of Engardio's term, and then again in November 2026 for a full four-year term.¹⁰

- **Incumbency Advantage:** His "boring" competence will likely play well after the chaos of the recall and the Alcaraz scandal.
- **The Threat:** However, the volatility of the D4 electorate means that any perceived misalignment on housing or public safety could trigger yet another wave of instability.

10. Conclusion

The "Supervisor Drama" of 2024-2025 in San Francisco’s District 4 stands as a stark example of the fragility of local governance. It demonstrated how quickly a stable political situation can deteriorate when a recall creates a power vacuum, and when that vacuum is filled by an executive branch prioritizing speed and optics over due diligence.

The tenure of Isabella Alcaraz—lasting only eight days—will be remembered as a nadir in the district's history. It was a scandal that combined the visceral repulsion of "dead mice" with the cold illegality of tax fraud, all enabled by a vetting process that failed to ask the most basic questions. The revelation that the appointee intended to "go back" to the Philippines suggests that the city was governed, however briefly, by a representative who had one foot out the door before she even walked in.

The appointment of Alan Wong appears to have cauterized the wound. By selecting a military veteran and education trustee who voted against the controversial Great Highway closure, Mayor Lurie has signaled a retreat from the "vibes based" politics that produced Alcaraz and a return to traditional, credentialed governance. However, the underlying tensions of the Sunset—the struggle over the Great Highway, the resistance to densification, and the feeling of alienation from City Hall—remain unresolved. District 4 remains San Francisco’s most unpredictable political fault line, waiting for the next tremor.

11. Appendix: Key Data and Timelines

11.1 Timeline of the Crisis

Phase	Date	Event	Significance	Source
Recall	Sept 2025	Supervisor Joel Engardio recalled.	First successful recall of a sitting supervisor in SF history; driven by Great Highway closure (Prop K) opposition.	1
Selection	Sept/Oct 2025	Beya Alcaraz meets Mayor Lurie at a night	Alcaraz pitches herself for the	7

		market.	vacancy; informal vetting process begins based on this interaction.	
Appointment	Nov 6, 2025	Alcaraz appointed Supervisor.	Sworn in by Mayor Lurie; touted as a small business owner and teacher.	1
Scandal	Nov 10, 2025	<i>SF Standard</i> publishes "Animal Connection" report.	Reveals squalor, dead mice, and poor conditions at Alcaraz's former store.	16
Defense	Nov 11-12, 2025	Mayor Lurie defends appointment.	Claims Alcaraz was "absolutely" vetted and blames her youth for the scrutiny.	2
Revelations	Nov 13, 2025	<i>Mission Local</i> publishes text messages.	Reveals Alcaraz admitting to "under the table" payments and tax fraud.	17
Resignation	Nov 13, 2025	Alcaraz resigns.	Tenure ends after just 8 days. Mayor Lurie accepts	17

			resignation.	
Stabilization	Dec 1, 2025	Alan Wong appointed.	CCSF Board President and National Guard veteran appointed to stabilize the seat.	²

11.2 Comparative Analysis of Appointees

Feature	Isabella "Beya" Alcaraz	Alan Wong
Age	29	38
Education	No Degree (Attended CCSF/Diablo Valley)	BA (UC San Diego), Master's (USF)
Political Exp.	None (Novice)	Legislative Aide, CCSF Board President
Military	None	15 Years (National Guard/Army)
Business	"The Animal Connection" (Pet Store)	None (Union Organizer/Non-profit)
Prop K Stance	Willing to compromise	Voted "No" (Aligned with District)
Scandal	Health code violations, Tax fraud	None known
Result	Resigned after 8 days	Serving as Supervisor

Report compiled by Senior Governance Analyst.
Data current as of December 10, 2025.

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