

= Ed Jew =

Edmund " Ed " Jew (simplified Chinese : 趙育明 ; traditional Chinese : 趙育明 ; pinyin : Zhào Yùémíng ; Jyutping : ziu6 jyut6 ming4 , born 1960 in San Francisco , California) is a former Chinese American politician based in San Francisco , who was convicted of extortion , bribery , and perjury in 2008 .

He graduated from San Francisco State University with a degree in economics and later earned a master 's degree in business administration at Golden Gate University . After spending several years as a businessman managing his family enterprises , he entered politics in 1980s and went on to serve in various community organizations . In 1996 , he was the volunteer liaison for then District 4 supervisor Leland Yee . In 2002 , Yee successfully ran for a seat in the California Assembly , and Jew ran for Yee 's seat on the Board of Supervisors in the 2002 election , but was defeated . When Yee 's successor Fiona Ma in 2006 ran for state assembly , Jew again ran for supervisor in District 4 , which comprises most of the Sunset District . After winning a highly competitive election decided by instant @-@ runoff voting , he was elected to the San Francisco Board of Supervisors .

Six months after he took office , the FBI raided his office and homes for allegedly extorting money from small business owners in his district . Shortly after the raid , the city attorney began investigating Jew for violating residency requirements necessary to hold his supervisor position . In September 2007 , he was suspended by Mayor Gavin Newsom and later resigned in the face of extortion and perjury charges . In late 2008 , he pleaded guilty to both charges . He was sentenced to 64 months in federal prison for extortion , and a year in county jail for perjury .

= = Personal life = =

Edmund Jew was born in San Francisco , California in 1960 . The Jew family emigrated from China around the start of the 20th century . His grandfather James Jew , who arrived to the city in 1913 , established an employment agency in 1925 and the Canton Flower Shop in Chinatown in 1927 . He became a distinguished leader in the Chinese community after serving many local Chinese American associations .

Jew was raised in Chinatown . After graduating from McAteer High School , Jew attended City College of San Francisco and San Francisco State University , where he earned a degree in economics . In 1984 , he also earned a Master of Business Administration degree from Golden Gate University .

Before entering politics , Jew was an entrepreneur . Among other enterprises , he managed his family 's flower shop and owned a local taxi company named Howard Mock Jew , Inc . In addition , he invested in real estate . He bought his first property in San Francisco at the age of 21 and , as of 2002 , he had a real estate portfolio (including properties in the Bay Area and Arizona) worth as much as \$ 5 million .

Jew 's wife Lorene and their daughter Cammie live in Burlingame , California . He also has a brother named David Jew .

= = Political career = =

Jew began his political career in the 1980s , establishing the Chinese Neighborhood Resource Center , which helped to clean up alleyways in Chinatown . He was then appointed by the mayor to serve on the Ten Year Plan Council to End Chronic Homelessness and the Office of Aging Advisory Council , the later oversaw the city 's senior services . Like his grandfather , Jew was heavily involved in local Chinese @-@ American politics , serving as president of the Jew Family Benevolent Association , the Yeong Wo Benevolent Association , the Hay Sen Benevolent Association , the Hip Sen Benevolent Association , and the Lung Kong Benevolent Association . He was also an active participant of numerous other community organizations , such as the Northeast Community Federal Credit Union , the Chinese Holocaust Museum , the Sunset Residents Association , and the Sunset Parkside Education and Action Committee . Jew once served as vice chairman of the San Francisco County Republican Central Committee before re @-@ registering as

an Independent and then as a Democrat .

From 1996 to 2001 , Jew was District 4 then @-@ supervisor Leland Yee 's volunteer community liaison . Jew first ran for Yee 's District 4 seat in 2002 when Yee ran for the California State Assembly . Despite Yee 's endorsement , Jew finished third , missing the runoff election . In 2006 , Jew again ran for same supervisor seat when Fiona Ma ran for the California Assembly . Jew led other candidates including his top challenger Ron Dudum in the first round with 26 % first @-@ place votes . He eventually won the closely fought election after securing a 52 % majority . In December 2006 , Mayor Gavin Newsom appointed Jew to serve out the remainder of Ma 's term ; he took office in January 2007 .

= = Controversies = =

= = = FBI raid and extortion charges = = =

On May 18 , 2007 , six months after Jew took office as supervisor , agents from the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) , armed with a federal warrant , raided his office at City Hall , his houses in San Francisco and Burlingame , and his Chinatown flower shop . The FBI sought evidence in Jew 's computers and records regarding " potentially criminal allegations " surrounding an extortion attempt .

Jew said that he had been contacted by the owners of a local chain tapioca drink shop , Quickly , to resolve Quickly 's business permit issues . Jew demanded \$ 80 @,@ 000 for his assistance , but agreed to accept \$ 40 @,@ 000 . The shop owners then contacted the FBI , which supplied the cash for a sting operation . The FBI used an undercover agent to meet with Jew and hand over the money .

Jew claimed that he turned over the money to a man named Robert Chan from a land use consulting firm called Bridge Consulting , though this was never substantiated . He also asked that half of the money be donated to the Friends of Sunset Playground , a local organization set up to raise money for the renovation of a playground at 28th Avenue and Lawton Street . The donation was later rejected by the group 's fiscal agency , Sunset Youth Services , after the directors , Dawn and Ron Stueckle and Delvin Mack learned the nature of the donation source .

On September 20 , 2007 , federal prosecutors charged Jew with one count of mail fraud in connection with extorting \$ 80 @,@ 000 from Quickly . Jew denied any wrongdoing . He questioned what influence he could have over the issuing of permits , and reiterated his refusal to resign his position , despite insistence from Mayor Gavin Newsom . On November 7 , 2007 , a federal grand jury added five felony charges , including two counts each of bribery and mail fraud and one count of extortion . He was also accused of accepting \$ 4 @,@ 000 in cash from the owner of another local business , Wonderful Desserts and Cafe . Jew pleaded not guilty to all charges .

= = = Residency requirements violation = = =

In late May 2007 , following the FBI raid , questions surfaced about whether or not Jew actually lived in his San Francisco home , and whether or not Jew therefore met the residency requirements of his supervisor position . The house in question (on 28th Avenue in the Sunset District) was owned by his father , though Jew 's neighbors said that the house was vacant and utility bills showed little to no usage of water or electricity . Jew claimed that he spent most of his time at his flower shop , but was not able to provide more information in response to City Attorney Dennis Herrera 's formal requests .

On June 12 , 2007 , San Francisco District Attorney Kamala Harris issued a warrant for Jew 's arrest , and charged him with nine felony counts of perjury , election code violations , voter fraud , and providing false documents . Jew turned himself in to the Burlingame Police Department .

On June 18 , 2007 , City Attorney Dennis Herrera sought approval from then California Attorney General Jerry Brown to remove Ed Jew from office . Citing records that showed little use of utilities

and interviews with 32 neighbors , Herrera declared that Jew had violated the residency requirements of the City Charter by falsely claiming in his campaign papers that he was a resident of San Francisco . Mayor Gavin Newsom said the case against Jew was " very damning " and raised concern about Jew continuing to cast votes while the legitimacy of his residency was in question .

On July 4 , 2007 , Jew 's attorneys issued a 138 @-@ page response to Herrera 's petition , arguing that even if Jew had not lived full @-@ time in his home in District 4 , his election had not violated any laws . They also accused Herrera of political bias in bringing the charges . Herrera denied Jew 's accusations , and released signed bank loan documents on which Jew had identified his address in Burlingame . On July 17 , 2007 , Jew pleaded not guilty to the perjury charges , and was granted bail after Jew agreed to surrender his passport .

During the preliminary hearing in late July , prosecutors presented testimonies from Jew 's neighbors at both of his homes , indicating that Jew had never lived in his 28th Avenue house and spent most of his time in Burlingame . Testimony from a U.S. Postal Service inspector revealed that Jew 's first @-@ class mail went to Burlingame while junk mail went to his San Francisco address ; prosecutors cited utility bills showing low usage of water and electricity at his 28th Avenue home , as well as loan applications that indicated he lived in Burlingame . In his defense , Jew produced a jury duty summons to indicate his address in San Francisco , and questioned the possible bias of the witnesses against him .

= = = Suspension and resignation = = =

On September 25 , 2007 , Mayor Gavin Newsom suspended Jew for alleged official misconduct and began the process of removing him from office . The city attorney also served Jew with civil charges of misconduct for allegedly lying about where he lived . Deputy budget director Carmen Chu was appointed as Jew 's temporary replacement on the Board of Supervisors . On January 10 , 2008 , Jew tendered his resignation in exchange for Herrera and Newsom dropping both the civil lawsuit and misconduct proceeding before the Ethics Commission regarding his residency violation . In a letter , he noted that he resigned due to tremendous legal expenses and swore never to seek public office again in the best interest of his family . Chu became Jew 's interim successor until the election in November 2008 .

= = = Guilty plea and sentencing = = =

On October 10 , 2008 , Jew changed his plea to guilty on the federal mail fraud and extortion charges . The following month , he also changed his plea to guilty on the perjury charges .

On April 3 , 2009 , Jew was sentenced to 64 months in state prison and fined \$ 10 @,@ 000 on the federal extortion charge . Prosecutors stated that he " preyed upon and victimized the very people whom he had proposed to support in his campaign : small business owners in the Sunset District . " On April 22 , 2009 , he was sentenced to one year in county jail , three years of probation , and a \$ 2 @,@ 000 fine on the state perjury charge . Jew reported to a federal prison in Safford , Arizona on June 30 , 2009 . In June 2012 , Jew was held at Taft Federal Correctional Institution in Kern County , California .

= = = After prison = = =

In 2013 , Ed Jew was released to a halfway house in San Francisco 's Tenderloin area . In late 2014 , he took up a low @-@ paying job in a city @-@ funded program targeting illegal garbage dumping in Chinatown , a position he still held in 2016 .