

From: [Amelia Helland](#)
To: [Board of Supervisors \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Public Comment – BOS – Board of Supervisors Discussion on Commission Streamlining Recommendations – March 17, 2026
Date: Tuesday, March 17, 2026 2:20:32 PM

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Good afternoon Supervisors,

I want to speak clearly about what's actually at stake here.

Commissions are not bureaucracy for the sake of bureaucracy.

They are structure. They are oversight. They are institutional memory.

They exist to do three things:

to distribute decision-making,

to bring subject-matter expertise into governance,

and to create checks between political pressure and public interest.

Removing or weakening them doesn't "streamline" government —
it centralizes power.

And when power is centralized, three things happen consistently:

less transparency,

less accountability,

and more volatility in decision-making.

Commissions slow things down — yes.

But that is the point.

They introduce friction into decisions that would otherwise be made quickly, narrowly, and without sufficient scrutiny.

They also ensure that decisions are informed by people with relevant expertise — not just made by whoever happens to hold authority in a given moment.

If the problem is inefficiency, then fix inefficiency.

If the problem is redundancy, then fix redundancy.

But removing commissions does not solve those problems — it removes both oversight and expertise from the process.

And when decisions are made without those safeguards, the risk is not just delay — it is that the wrong decisions get made in the first place.

This is not a question of speed.

It is a question of decision quality, accountability, and long-term impact.

Thank you.

- Amelia Helland

From: [Jayson Wechter](#)
To: [Board of Supervisors \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Streamlining Task Force recommendations
Date: Tuesday, March 17, 2026 2:29:31 PM

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

To the Board of Supervisors,

I served as the Sheriff's Department Oversight Board's (SDOB) inaugural President and have been involved with oversight of law enforcement in San Francisco since 1983, when I was one of the first employees at the Office of Citizen Complaints (now the Department of Police Accountability). I worked in oversight of law enforcement in the Bay Area for over 20 years and currently serve on the Board of Directors of the National Association for Civilian Oversight of Law Enforcement (NACOLE).

For oversight to succeed, it needs a solid foundation and a strong commitment to its existence and operations. Moving the SDOB from the Charter to the Administrative Code undermines this and would make it harder to recruit a qualified Inspector General and OIG staff. The Task Force's recommendation to add a three-year sunset date means no one who goes to work at the agency could rely on being employed for more than three years. I worked at the Department of Police Accountability for almost 20 years. Grounding that agency in the Charter enabled it to operate without fear of political consequences as a result of its investigations or identification of systemic issues in the San Francisco Police Department.

Several of the Task Force's recommended changes to the SDOB contradict the best practices of comparable oversight agencies. Changing the appointing authority to 4 Mayoral and 3 Board of Supervisors, and changing those to at-will appointment, is a step backwards from the accepted practices at comparable oversight agencies, and places too much authority in the hands of one individual, which undermines effective checks and balances.

<!--[if !supportLists]-->• <!--[endif]-->Members of the Oakland Police Commission, which oversees the Oakland Police Department, are chosen by a nine-member Selection Panel. The Mayor makes only one appointment to this panel, each of the seven City Council members makes one appointment and the Council makes one At Large appointment.

<!--[if !supportLists]-->• <!--[endif]-->Eight of the nine members of the Berkeley Police Accountability Board are appointed by the City Council, and one is

appointed by the Mayor.

• Five of the nine members of the Los Angeles County Sheriff Civilian Oversight Commission are appointed by the county Board of Supervisors (one nominated by each Supervisorial District), and four members are appointed by the Board “upon recommendation by the Executive Officer of the Board of Supervisors, in consultation with County Counsel.”

• The San Diego County Board of Supervisors appoints all eleven members of the Citizens Law Enforcement Review Board, who are nominated by the Chief Administrative Officer.

Removing the SDOB’s authority to issue subpoena also contradicts practices at comparable agencies.

- The Los Angeles County Sheriff Civilian Oversight Commission **has the power to subpoena and require attendance of witnesses and the production of books and papers pertinent to its investigations and oversight, and to administer oaths.** ([Ord. 2024-0046](#) § 2, 2020.)
- The San Diego Citizens Law Enforcement Review Board has, “pursuant to the Charter of the County of San Diego, section 606(d), (have) the power to subpoena and require attendance of witnesses and the production of books and papers pertinent to its investigations and to administer oaths.” (Added by Ord. No. 7880 (N.S.), effective 5-2-91)

However, for the SDOB and the OIG to succeed, significant changes are needed to Charter Section 4.137 to make it consistent with recognized effective practices in the field of civilian oversight of law enforcement. I and other members of the Bay Area oversight community are ready to assist the Commission Streamlining Task Force and the Board of Supervisors in drafting badly needed revisions to Charter Section 4.137.

These should include:

- Changing section 4.137 (h) to remove the prohibition against anyone “employed previously by a law enforcement agency” from serving as the

Inspector General or as OIG staff. This is counter to the practice of almost every other oversight agency I am familiar with. It prevents highly qualified individuals from being considered for positions as the IG or as OIG staff.

- Changing Section 4.137 (a) (1) to prohibit a current or former sworn employee of the San Francisco Sheriff's Office from serving on the SDOB. This is consistent with the language in Section 4.136 (c), Department of Police Accountability, which states, "No full-time or part-time employee of DPA shall have previously served as a uniformed member of the Police Department." Many oversight boards prohibit anyone employed as a sworn member of a law enforcement agency within the past 5 years from serving on that board.
- Changing Section 4.137 (5) to remove the Sheriff's Department as the sole source or authority for developing, prescribing the content of, or administering the mandatory 80 hours of training required of all appointees to the SDOB. This is not consistent with best practices in oversight.
- Requiring that the SDOB and the OIG adopt and adhere to the NACOLE Code of Ethics (https://www.nacole.org/nacole_code_of_ethics).

Thank you.

Jayson Wechter
jayson@well.com

From: [Julie Schweit](#)
To: [FielderStaff](#); [Board of Supervisors \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Input: Hearing on Recs for Streamlining Commissions
Date: Tuesday, March 17, 2026 2:37:01 PM

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Hello Jackie Fielder and the SF Board of Supervisors.

I am writing to you as a proud longtime resident of San Francisco's Mission District. I value and take seriously the San Francisco Sanctuary City Ordinance in place since 1989. Arrests of immigrants attending their scheduled hearings are again (still) happening and Mayor Daniel Lurie is proving ineffective at best, a collaborator at worst, in these matters. His work in "balancing the budget" is capitulating to those interests that have big money and leaving the working class and people without homes to fend for themselves and "move along."

It is because of the need for checks and balances that we have city commissions with both mayoral AND board-appointed community leaders. Please do not support the cutting of city commissions and allowing the current and future mayors' offices to hold too much power and the ability to hurt the San Francisco citizens who are not m/billionaires.

We must take care of our own. Big tech money isn't going to do it, and apparently, neither is the Mayor.

Thank you,

Julie Schweit
2419 Folsom Street
San Francisco, CA 94110

From: [Sean McMorris](#)
To: [Board of Supervisors \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Written public comments for Agenda Item #15 (3/17/2026 BOS agenda)
Date: Tuesday, March 17, 2026 1:51:49 PM
Attachments: [\(3_17_2026\) SF BOS written comments \(re_EC ballot placement\).pdf](#)

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Hello,

Please see attached CA Common Cause's written public comments for agenda item #15 on the 3/17/2026 Board of Supervisor's meeting agenda.

Sean M.

Sean McMorris (He/Him)
Transparency, Ethics & Accountability Program Manager
California Common Cause
430 S. Garfield Ave. Suite 418, Alhambra CA 91801
smcmorris@commoncause.org
(626) 382-6994

March 17, 2026

San Francisco Board of Supervisors
Legislative Chamber, Room 250 City Hall,
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place San Francisco,
CA 94102-4689



Re: Agenda Item #15, Charter Section 15.102: Proposed Amendments to Ethics Commission Ballot Authority — OPPOSE UNLESS AMENDED

Dear Supervisors,

California Common Cause **strongly opposes** *the proposed changes to the San Francisco Ethics Commission's ballot placement authority set forth in Agenda Item #15, Charter Section 15.102.*

Transferring final amendment authority over Ethics Commission–sponsored ballot measures from the Ethics Commission to the Board of Supervisors (BOS) would fundamentally undermine the purpose of that authority. San Franciscans—not elected officials—created Ethics Commission ballot placement authority precisely to serve as a structural check on politicians who cannot credibly be expected to regulate themselves. Allowing the BOS final control over measures designed to hold the BOS accountable would defeat the law's intent, invite political interference, and predictably result in diluted or symbolic reforms that erode public trust rather than strengthen accountability.

Such a change would also materially weaken the Ethics Commission's independence by inserting politics directly into one of the Commission's core oversight functions. Ethics oversight is effective only when it is insulated from the very officials it regulates.

That said, there *is* a reasonable way to increase Board engagement without undermining the law's purpose. California Common Cause supports a compromise under which the BOS is granted a public hearing on an Ethics Commission–proposed ballot measure, with the opportunity to propose amendments by majority vote—but without final authority to amend or place the measure on the ballot. This approach meaningfully increases dialogue while preserving the Ethics Commission's independence and the accountability function voters intended.

In closing, allowing the Ethics Commission discretion to place ethics, accountability, and campaign-finance ordinances on the ballot is among the most important safeguards protecting both the Commission's independence and meaningful accountability in San Francisco government. Ethics oversight is one of the few areas in which elected officials should *not* have the final word. Independent oversight is essential to maintaining public confidence and ensuring accountability laws are strengthened when needed, rather than weakened or deferred.

For these reasons, California Common Cause strongly opposes the Task Force's proposed amendments in Agenda Item #15 for Charter Section 15.102 and urges the Board of Supervisors to remove it from consideration. Doing so will preserve the intent of voter-approved law and reinforce public trust in San Francisco government.

If the Ethics Commission's authority to place measures directly on the ballot related to laws within its jurisdiction is repealed or significantly weakened, it is likely that California Common Cause, along with a coalition of good-government groups, will oppose the entire ballot measure.

Sincerely,

Sean McMorris

Transparency, Ethics, and Accountability Program Manager

California Common Cause

smcmorris@commoncause.org

From: [Emran, Hasib \(HRC\)](#)
To: [BOS Clerks Office \(BOS\)](#); [Board of Supervisors \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Agenda Item #15: Opposition to Streamline Task Force Proposal to Remove the Human Rights Commission from the San Francisco Charter
Date: Tuesday, March 17, 2026 1:07:46 PM
Attachments: [SF Human Rights Commission Chair Opposition to Charter Reform.pdf](#)
[Outlook-yynlsvbd.png](#)

Hi Madam Clerk,

My opposition letter attached here on behalf of the HRC to be reflected in the record of today's BOS Meeting scheduled for this afternoon on Agenda Item #15 please. Thank you!

Best,

**SAN FRANCISCO
HUMAN RIGHTS
COMMISSION**

Hasib Emran
Chair, Human Rights Commission
[San Francisco Human Rights Commission](#)
25 Van Ness Avenue, Suite 800, San Francisco, CA 94102-6033
T: (415) 252-2500 | hasib.emran@sfgov.org

City and County of San Francisco
HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION



Mawuli Tugbenyoh
Executive Director

Daniel Lurie
Mayor

March 17, 2026

Hon. Rafael Mandelman
c/o Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
1 Dr Carlton B. Goodlett Place, Room 244
San Francisco, CA 94102-4689

Re: Opposition to Streamline Task Force Proposal to Remove the Human Rights Commission from the San Francisco Charter

Dear President Mandelman and Members of the Board of Supervisors:

We write to respectfully express our strong opposition to any proposal that would remove the Human Rights Commission from the San Francisco Charter and place it in the Administrative Code. Additionally, we do not agree that the Commission should move from a governance body to an advisory body.

Since its establishment in 1964, the Human Rights Commission has served as a cornerstone of San Francisco's commitment to civil rights, equality, and dignity for all residents. Created during the height of the civil rights movement, the Commission was intentionally embedded in the City's Charter to ensure that civil rights oversight would remain a permanent and independent component of San Francisco's system of government.

At its core, the Commission exists to ensure that City policies, programs, and economic opportunities are accessible to all people—regardless of race, ethnicity, gender, religion, national origin, ability, sexual orientation, immigration status, or economic background. Through policy oversight, public hearings, and collaboration with City departments and community organizations, the Commission helps ensure that San Francisco's values of fairness and equal opportunity are reflected in the decisions of local government, providing a venue for community to bring their grievances and seek repair.

The Commission also plays a vital role as a bridge between City Hall and the communities it serves. Through regular public meetings, community engagement, and advocacy efforts, the Commission provides a formal forum where residents—particularly those from historically marginalized communities—can raise concerns, inform policy discussions, and help shape the City's approach to protecting civil rights and advancing equity.

The Commission is committed to ensuring that civil rights work in San Francisco continues to be carried out with integrity, responsibility, and public trust. At this moment of rebuilding and

reform, preserving the Human Rights Commission's Charter status is more important than ever.

Being in the Charter ensures stability, independence, and transparency for a body tasked with safeguarding civil rights. It also protects the Commission from shifting political priorities by ensuring that civil rights oversight remains embedded in the City's foundational governance structure rather than subject to shifting political priorities.

Removing the Human Rights Commission from the Charter would weaken that framework and risk diminishing the permanence and visibility of San Francisco's commitment to civil rights leadership. At a time when communities across the country are facing renewed challenges to fundamental rights and protections, San Francisco should reaffirm—rather than dilute—its institutional commitment to protecting human rights and advancing equity.

For these reasons, the Human Rights Commission respectfully urges the Board of Supervisors to reject any proposal that would remove the Commission from the San Francisco Charter.

Thank you for your consideration and for your continued dedication to protecting the rights and dignity of all San Franciscans.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Hasib Emran". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial "H".

Hasib Emran

Chair, San Francisco Human Rights Commission

cc:

Supervisor Connie Chan, District 1
Supervisor Stephen Sherrill, District 2
Supervisor Danny Sauter, District 3
Supervisor Alan Wong, District 4
Supervisor Bilal Mahmood, District 5
Supervisor Matt Dorsey, District 6
Supervisor Myrna Melgar, District 7
Supervisor Jackie Fielder, District 9
Supervisor Shamann Walton, District 10
Supervisor Chyanne Chen, District 11
Clerk of the San Francisco Board of Supervisors
Human Rights Commissioner Vice Chair Leah Pimentel
Human Rights Commissioner Robert Sandoval
Human Rights Commissioner Rosie Williams
Human Rights Commissioner Sarah Montoya
Human Rights Commissioner Eric Chang

From: [Dr.Pam Tate](#)
To: [Board of Supervisors \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Streamlining Commission Letter of Support for HRC, COSW, And Youth Commission
Date: Tuesday, March 17, 2026 12:55:56 PM
Attachments: [Outlook-1hgutfhs.png](#)
[Outlook-02zw3zki.png](#)
[Outlook-rffnbcv1.png](#)
[Streamlining Commission Letter of Support of Support for HRC, COSW, And Youth Commission \(1\).pdf](#)

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

March 17, 2026

Dear Members of the Streamlining Commission,

I write to strongly urge you to preserve the current governing status of the **Human Rights Commission**, the **Commission on the Status of Women**, and the **Youth Commission**, and not reduce these bodies to advisory commissions. At a time of significant restructuring within the City and County of San Francisco, it is critical that we protect the commissions that ensure our most marginalized and underrepresented communities are not only heard, but meaningfully represented in government.

The **Human Rights Commission** has also had a profound and measurable impact on communities across San Francisco. As an original Dream Keeper Initiative grantee, Black Women Revolt Against Domestic Violence has experienced firsthand the importance of the Human Rights Commission's leadership and vision. Through its support, we have been able to deepen our outreach and connect with communities disproportionately impacted by domestic violence, including residents in the Fillmore, Bayview, and Excelsior. The Human Rights Commission understands that race, gender, culture, and lived experience shape how people experience harm, seek support, and heal. That perspective is essential to ensuring that city systems remain responsive, equitable, and grounded in the realities of the people they serve.

The **Commission on the Status of Women** is equally essential. It remains one of the only governing bodies in San Francisco specifically dedicated to advancing the needs, safety, and well-being of women, girls, and nonbinary people. In a city that continues to confront gender inequity, violence, wage disparities, and barriers to opportunity, this commission provides focused leadership, policy advocacy, and accountability that cannot be replicated if its power is diminished. Its existence sends a clear message that gender equity is not optional, secondary, or symbolic - it is a governing priority. San Francisco is only as great as it treats its citizens, and the women of San Francisco's health and safety must be prioritized!

The **Youth Commission** plays a vital role in civic engagement, leadership development, and public accountability for San Francisco’s youth. It creates a formal space for young people, especially those too young to vote but deeply impacted by public policy to speak directly to their local government, shape recommendations, and participate in city governance. For many youth, this commission is their first real opportunity to experience public leadership, advocacy, and civic responsibility. Just last evening, on March 16, 2026, one of Black Women Revolt Against Domestic Violence’s Youth Advisory Council members gave their first public comment before the Youth Commission in support of Sexual Assault Awareness Month and in recognition of the impact of sexual violence on young people. That moment mattered because the Youth Commission created a space intentionally designed to center youth voices and affirm that their lived experiences belong in public decision-making.

In these trying times, San Francisco must not move backward by weakening the very bodies that help protect representation, equity, and accountability. These commissions are not ceremonial. They are necessary governing structures that elevate voices too often left out of public systems to help shape a city that works for everyone.

Thank you for your time and consideration, and for your commitment to building a San Francisco where all people are seen, heard, and represented.

In Community Solidarity,



**Paméla Michelle Tate, Ph.D.
(Me/She/Her/Dragonslayer)**

Executive Director and Lived Experience Expert

**Black Women Revolt Against Domestic
Violence**

Work: 1(888) 260-1498 Ext.105

Cell: 1(628) 286-4297

Email: pam@blackwomenrevolt.org

1485 Bayshore Blvd. Suite 227 | Mailbox #122, San
Francisco, CA 94124

[Survivor Client Intake Form](#)

[Speaker Request Form](#)

[Support Change, Donate Today](#)

Please Note: Case management services are currently
and crisis line are now available, **Monday–Friday** from

12:00 PM – 4:00 PM until June 30, 2026.

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Featured Articles by Dr. Tate:

- [Things My Work With Black Women Survivors Has Taught Me](#)
- [Not A Choice: Housing Crisis Solutions Must Include Survivors Of Domestic Abuse](#)
- [Cuts to 'Woke' Programs Threaten Lifelines for Domestic Violence Survivors](#)
- [The Lives Of Missing Black Women Demand More Than Hashtags](#)

 [Book time to meet with me](#)

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March 17, 2026

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In these trying times, San Francisco must not move backward by weakening the very bodies that help protect representation, equity, and accountability. These commissions are not ceremonial. They are necessary governing structures that elevate voices too often left out of public systems to help shape a city that works for everyone.

Thank you for your time and consideration, and for your commitment to building a San Francisco where all people are seen, heard, and represented.

In Community Solidarity,,

Paméla Michelle Tate, Ph.D.

Executive Director

Email: pam@blackwomenrevolt.org

Black Women Revolt Against Domestic Violence
1485 Bayshore Blvd, Suite 227 | MB #122
San Francisco, CA 94124
www.blackwomenrevolt.org

From: [Stephen Torres](#)
To: [Board of Supervisors \(BOS\)](#)
Cc: [Mandelman, Rafael \(BOS\)](#); [Tina Aguirre](#); [Lurie, Daniel \(MYR\)](#)
Subject: Letter Re: March 17, 2026 Agenda, Item 15
Date: Tuesday, March 17, 2026 12:54:08 PM
Attachments: [Commissions Streamlining Castro LGBTQ Cultural District 031726.pdf](#)

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Good afternoon Clerk Calvillo,

Please see attached the letter in regard to Item 15 on today's agenda.

Best,

--

Stephen Torres
Interim Program Manager
Castro LGBTQ Cultural District
storres@castrolgbtq.org
415.489.8761



March 17, 2026

To: The San Francisco Board of Supervisors

RE: Item 15- Committee of the Whole Hearing on Commission Streamlining

Dear President Mandelman and Members of the San Francisco Board of Supervisors:

On behalf of The **Castro LGBTQ Cultural District**, I am writing to convey our **strong support to preserving core oversight & equity commissions in the charter** along with **keeping bodies as independent structures**.

The Castro LGBTQ Cultural District is dedicated to centering and uplifting queer people, places and culture. As such, we are very invested in the role of commissions to provide important checks and balances that ensure racial, gender, and class equity from voices of the people in San Francisco City governmental conversations that affect our lives on a daily basis.

Queer communities all across the United States are under attack at the federal, state, and local level which makes community ability to advocate in policy discussions at the City level even more crucial than ever. We are especially interested in supporting the preservation of the following commissions.

Entertainment Commission	Homelessness Oversight Commission
Human Rights Commission	Small Business Commission
Youth Commission	Building Inspection Commission
Children, Youth, and their Families Oversight Advisory Committee	Sheriff's Department Oversight Board
Commission on the Status of Women	Police Commission
Commission on Environment	Historic Preservation Commission
Disability and Aging Services Commission	San Francisco Arts Commission

Our Mission:

The Castro LGBTQ Cultural District is committed to preserving, sustaining, and promoting the rich cultural legacy of the Castro and its significance to San Francisco's LGBTQ+ community and beyond. Our goals are to highlight the structures and sites important to our history; foster racial, ethnic, gender and cultural diversity among residents and businesses; and create a safe, beautiful, and inclusive space for LGBTQ+ and allied communities, to visit from around the world and call the Castro home.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Tina V. Aguirre". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Tina V. Aguirre, Castro LGBTQ Cultural District Director

www.castrolgbtq.org

From: [Cherry Javier](#)
To: [Board of Supervisors \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Protect our Commissions!
Date: Tuesday, March 17, 2026 12:07:33 PM

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Dear Board of Supervisors,

Please protect the Commission on the Status of Women and the Human Rights Commission. Our country is becoming more and more hostile to marginalized people. Now is not the time for San Francisco to abandon its most vulnerable populations and consolidate power in the Mayor.

Please, resist this power grab and the weakening of the people. You can simply reject the oncoming erosion of tools for the people!

Thank you for your consideration.

From: [Dylan Morse](#)
To: [Board of Supervisors \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Letter of Support for the SGAC
Date: Tuesday, March 17, 2026 3:16:12 PM
Attachments: [Letter of Support for SGAC.pdf](#)

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Hello,

Attached please find a letter supporting the continuation of the SGAC.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Dylan Morse

Program Director - Shelter Client Advocates

Intake: (415) 669-0284 | Cell: (415) 592-5388

976 Mission Street, San Francisco, CA 94103

dylanm@evictiondefense.org | evictiondefense.org

Pronouns: He/Him



To the Board of Supervisors,

In Support of the Shelter Grievance Advisory Committee

This letter concerns the importance of the Shelter Grievance Advisory Committee (SGAC) which advises the Homelessness and Supportive Housing department on the administration of the Shelter Grievance Ordinance (SGO). The SGO governs the process shelters must follow when denying services to shelter guests. Meeting quarterly, the SGAC provides a critical service in ensuring transparency and accountability in our shelter services system as it reviews with HSH its shelter provider reports on the number of guests exited each month as well as reports submitted by our program regarding the number of guests who availed themselves of the denial of services appeals process and the results of those appeals.

The SGAC members run the full spectrum of current and former shelter clients, client advocates, shelter providers, DPH, and concerned citizens. This unique mix gives the committee invaluable insight from a wide variety of stakeholders, ensuring that all vested parties' interests are represented. And, most importantly, the members challenge our program, HSH, and shelter providers to explain our service levels and outcomes.

The collaborative spirit of the SGAC ensures the facilitation of discussions between consumers, providers, and HSH with the goal of improving services, mitigating the potential for abuses, and creating a system for data driven insights into what is occurring within the shelter system. By utilizing data from shelters and client advocates to take both a macroscopic and microscopic view of the shelter system, the SGAC can target its efforts on emergent and ongoing issues in a way which focuses on solutions in a collaborative manner, while still centering shelter guests.

We respectfully urge the Board of Supervisors to ensure the future of the Shelter Grievance Advisory Committee so that the vital work of providing transparency and accountability in our shelter system may continue.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dylan Morse', is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Dylan Morse

Program Director – Shelter Client Advocates

Eviction Defense Collaborative
976 Mission Street | San Francisco, CA 94103 |
Phone: (415) 947-0797 | Fax: (415) 947-0331 |
www.evictiondefense.org

City and County of San Francisco
HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION



Mawuli Tugbenyoh
Executive Director

Daniel Lurie
Mayor

March 17, 2026

Hon. Rafael Mandelman
c/o Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
1 Dr Carlton B. Goodlett Place, Room 244
San Francisco, CA 94102-4689

Re: Opposition to Streamline Task Force Proposal to Remove the Human Rights Commission from the San Francisco Charter

Dear President Mandelman and Members of the Board of Supervisors:

We write to respectfully express our strong opposition to any proposal that would remove the Human Rights Commission from the San Francisco Charter and place it in the Administrative Code. Additionally, we do not agree that the Commission should move from a governance body to an advisory body.

Since its establishment in 1964, the Human Rights Commission has served as a cornerstone of San Francisco's commitment to civil rights, equality, and dignity for all residents. Created during the height of the civil rights movement, the Commission was intentionally embedded in the City's Charter to ensure that civil rights oversight would remain a permanent and independent component of San Francisco's system of government.

At its core, the Commission exists to ensure that City policies, programs, and economic opportunities are accessible to all people—regardless of race, ethnicity, gender, religion, national origin, ability, sexual orientation, immigration status, or economic background. Through policy oversight, public hearings, and collaboration with City departments and community organizations, the Commission helps ensure that San Francisco's values of fairness and equal opportunity are reflected in the decisions of local government, providing a venue for community to bring their grievances and seek repair.

The Commission also plays a vital role as a bridge between City Hall and the communities it serves. Through regular public meetings, community engagement, and advocacy efforts, the Commission provides a formal forum where residents—particularly those from historically marginalized communities—can raise concerns, inform policy discussions, and help shape the City's approach to protecting civil rights and advancing equity.

The Commission is committed to ensuring that civil rights work in San Francisco continues to be carried out with integrity, responsibility, and public trust. At this moment of rebuilding and

reform, preserving the Human Rights Commission's Charter status is more important than ever.

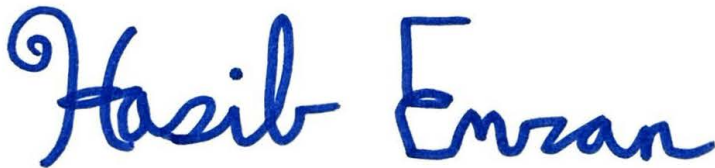
Being in the Charter ensures stability, independence, and transparency for a body tasked with safeguarding civil rights. It also protects the Commission from shifting political priorities by ensuring that civil rights oversight remains embedded in the City's foundational governance structure rather than subject to shifting political priorities.

Removing the Human Rights Commission from the Charter would weaken that framework and risk diminishing the permanence and visibility of San Francisco's commitment to civil rights leadership. At a time when communities across the country are facing renewed challenges to fundamental rights and protections, San Francisco should reaffirm—rather than dilute—its institutional commitment to protecting human rights and advancing equity.

For these reasons, the Human Rights Commission respectfully urges the Board of Supervisors to reject any proposal that would remove the Commission from the San Francisco Charter.

Thank you for your consideration and for your continued dedication to protecting the rights and dignity of all San Franciscans.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Hasib Emran". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial 'H'.

Hasib Emran

Chair, San Francisco Human Rights Commission

cc:

Supervisor Connie Chan, District 1
Supervisor Stephen Sherrill, District 2
Supervisor Danny Sauter, District 3
Supervisor Alan Wong, District 4
Supervisor Bilal Mahmood, District 5
Supervisor Matt Dorsey, District 6
Supervisor Myrna Melgar, District 7
Supervisor Jackie Fielder, District 9
Supervisor Shamann Walton, District 10
Supervisor Chyanne Chen, District 11
Clerk of the San Francisco Board of Supervisors
Human Rights Commissioner Vice Chair Leah Pimentel
Human Rights Commissioner Robert Sandoval
Human Rights Commissioner Rosie Williams
Human Rights Commissioner Sarah Montoya
Human Rights Commissioner Eric Chang

March 16, 2025

San Francisco Board of Supervisors
San Francisco City Hall
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place
City Hall
San Francisco, CA 94102
Submitted via Electronic Mail

Re: Proposed Changes to the Police Commission's Authority

Dear Members of the Commission Streamlining Task Force:

I am writing on behalf of the Public Defender's Office to strongly oppose the Task Force's recommendations to consolidate Police Commission (Commission) authorities under the Mayor and to limit the Commission and Department of Police Accountability's (DPA) independence in overseeing the San Francisco Police Department (SFPD). The proposed changes would reverse voter-approved checks and balances, dangerously centralize authority, and worsen documented administrative delays in issuing police discipline.

For 100 years, the San Francisco Public Defender's Office has provided dedicated and zealous legal representation to individuals charged with a crime and unable to afford an attorney. Our mission is to protect and defend the rights of our clients and community through effective, vigorous, compassionate, and creative legal advocacy.

In a brief half page of the report,¹ the Task Force recommends ten modifications to the operation and powers of the Police Commission:

1. Remove this Board's ability to approve or reject mayoral Commission appointments
2. Remove this Board's oversight on the mayor's power to remove a Commissioner
3. Remove the Commission's role in hiring and firing the Chief of Police
4. Give the Commission direct hiring and firing authority over DPA Director
5. Transfer the power to discipline for severe cases from the Commission to the Chief of Police
6. Transfer the Commission's role in discipline to an Administrative Law Judge (ALJ)
7. Make the Commission serve as an appellate body for the ALJ and Chief's discipline decisions
8. Eliminate the DPA Director's ability to recommend discipline the chief disagrees with

¹ https://media.api.sf.gov/documents/Commission_Streamlining_Task_Force_Final_Report.pdf at page 79.

9. Remove the requirement that at least one Commissioner have trial experience as an attorney
10. Create term limits for Commissioners

The introduction of term limits is a benign change to the operation but the other suggestions will have a significant negative impact on the work of police oversight.

Preserve the Board’s Appointment and Oversight Role

The proposed changes undermine voter-approved reforms designed to check the Mayor’s authority. San Francisco’s Charter intentionally splits appointment and removal authority of Commissioners between the Board of Supervisors and the Mayor to preserve independence for one of the City’s most consequential bodies. The Charter and voters have vested this Board with a role in the decision to approve and remove Commissioners.

The prior administration’s practice of having Commissioners sign a letter to “pre-resign” upon appointment was rightly and promptly ended once it was exposed in the press. This Task Force’s recommendation that the mayor have unilateral firing ability would, in effect, codify that [widely-criticized policy](#) in the Charter. The proposed change would gut the current system of checks and balances where the Board of Supervisors approval is required to remove a commissioner. Protecting Commissioners who act on evidence and conscience—even when political winds shift—is essential to maintaining meaningful oversight.

Two years ago, [San Francisco voters expressly](#) rejected efforts to shift power toward the Mayor by voting down Proposition D, an ordinance with identical language to what is now being presented by the Task Force, by more than 13 percentage points. Furthermore, San Francisco voters have repeatedly voted for more [oversight](#), [transparency](#), and [accountability](#) in policing. Resubmitting this question to the ballot, despite voters’ clear decision, undermines the stability of the democratic process and the integrity of voter-approved reforms.

Moreover, gifting unilateral authority to the Mayor to hire and fire the Chief of Police would erode that independence and cuts against police oversight best practices nationally. The risks here are as obvious as they are serious: oversight, reforms, or internal dissent may be suppressed when a majority of Commissioners are directly beholden to a single political actor.² When independent oversight is undermined, police misconduct becomes harder to detect, deter, and discipline.

² See Fair & Just Prosecution, *Promoting Independent Police Accountability Mechanisms: Key Principles for Civilian Oversight of Law Enforcement* (June 2021), <https://www.fairandjustprosecution.org/staging/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/FJP-Civilian-Oversight-Issue-Brief.pdf>; Cleveland Community Police Commission, *Best Practices for Civilian Oversight of Police* (Sept. 2019), <https://clecpc.org/wp-content/uploads/Best-Practices-for-Civilian-Oversight-of-Police-2019.pdf>.

Maintain the Commission’s Authority to Impose Discipline

Moving all discipline authority to the Chief relegates the Commission to a largely advisory role—precisely the model academic research on police oversight warns against. Purely advisory bodies seldom provide effective oversight or accountability because they are consistently associated with lower compliance,³ weaker legitimacy,⁴ and less ability to leverage better outcomes.⁵ By contrast, independence is “widely understood to be imperative” to an oversight agency’s legitimacy and success.⁶ The [pioneer of the modern police oversight movement](#), Merrick Bobb, documented how advisory bodies without binding authority or structural independence fail because their findings can be too easily ignored.⁷

It is recognized nationally that police discipline decisions should be insulated from the political process.⁸ San Francisco’s current structure balances efficiency with necessary independence by allowing the Chief to adjudicate minor misconduct cases while allocating serious misconduct cases to the Commission.

Transferring serious cases that the Commission currently adjudicates to an Administrative Law Judge is a drastic change that would all but entirely remove the Commission from the discipline process.⁹

Prioritize DPA’s Independence

Equally troubling, the proposed changes will quietly eliminate [DPA’s longstanding authority](#) to file disciplinary charges directly with the Commission. Without this ability, the agency becomes purely advisory. Because the Chief has frequently rejected or minimized its findings, DPA’s authority matters more than ever.

[A 2022 study by DPA of its sustained misconduct](#) cases sent to the Chief showed the Chief disagreed with DPA’s discipline recommendations in nearly six out of 10 cases, declining to impose discipline at all in 23% of cases and imposing lower discipline

³ National Association for Civilian Oversight of Law Enforcement (NACOLE), *Impediments & Challenges to Civilian Oversight* 2-3, 14 (Oct. 10, 2024), https://assets.nationbuilder.com/nacole/pages/1302/attachments/original/1728589148/NACOLE_REP_ORF_FINAL_Impediments_and_Challenges_20241010.pdf?1728589148=&.

⁴ *Id.*

⁵ Peter Finn, *Citizen Review of Police: Approaches and Implementation* (2001) (NCJ No. 184430), <https://www.ojp.gov/pdffiles1/nij/184430.pdf>.

⁶ Office of Community Oriented Policing Services, *The Evolution and Growth of Civilian Oversight: Key Principles and Practices for Effectiveness and Sustainability* 12 (COPS W0951, 2021), <https://portal.cops.usdoj.gov/resourcecenter/content.ashx/cops-w0951-pub.pdf>.

⁷ Bobb, Merrick (2003) "Civilian Oversight of the Police in the United States," *Saint Louis University Public Law Review*: Vol. 22: No. 1, Article 10, <https://scholarship.law.slu.edu/plr/vol22/iss1/10>.

⁸ See [Oakland’s Police Commission](#), the Los Angeles Independent Board of Rights, the Chicago [Police Board](#), and the Milwaukee [Fire and Police Commission](#).

⁹ See, Paul Chignell, Public Comment at Special Meeting of the Commission Streamlining Task Force, January 14, 2026 https://sanfrancisco.granicus.com/player/clip/51583?view_id=236&redirect=true at 3:11:33, explaining that only six serious cases were appealed to an ALJ since the process began.

than what DPA recommended 15% of the time. Similarly, [between 2017 and 2019](#), the Chief agreed with DPA’s findings in sustained misconduct cases less than half the time and disciplined just 45% of the time.

It is essential that San Francisco protect DPA’s independent authority in discipline matters. Otherwise, the Task Force’s changes risk dismantling its core strength and cuts against what voters demanded when they [created](#) and [repeatedly](#) strengthened civilian oversight in prior reforms.

Strengthen Accountability Through Timely Discipline

Delays in Chief-imposed discipline are well documented. [DPA’s 2023 ‘Key Issue’ memo](#) found that 55% of cases referred to the Chief for discipline had awaited adjudication for more than a year. Further burdening the Chief with sole authority over *all cases* would only worsen these backlogs, keeping officers accused of serious misconduct on the street—or in the so-called “[rubber room](#)”—potentially for years while still drawing taxpayer salaries. Crucially, those officers could also testify in criminal trials while knowledge of their misconduct accusations remains hidden from the jury by SFPD’s byzantine, opaque discipline system.

The Need for Accountability Remains Urgent and Visible

After more than a decade of reoccurring high-profile scandals and [expensive police misconduct litigation](#), weakening independent oversight now sends the wrong message to the public.

Transferring authority from the Commission to the Chief hides the oversight process when we should be seeing more. Police should not police themselves because too often scandals are hidden behind a blue wall of silence.¹⁰ San Francisco must continue the work voters have long sought: binding oversight authority, multiple independent voices, and transparent timelines to deliver prompt, impartial discipline. Consolidating power in the Mayor, narrowing the Commission’s authority, and eliminating DPA’s charging power reverses that progress.

For these reasons, we strongly oppose the recommended changes.

Respectfully submitted,

Zac Dillon
Senior Law & Policy Analyst, Integrity Unit
San Francisco Public Defender

¹⁰ Eric Arnold, *Police Misconduct: Combatting the Complicity Crisis*, Nw. U. J. of Criminal Law & Criminology Vol. 115, Issue 1, Article 4 (Winter 2025), <https://scholarlycommons.law.northwestern.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=7781&context=jclc> (observing how internal police discipline systems perpetuate rather than curb misconduct).

From: [Sean McMorris](#)
To: [Khoo, Arthur \(BOS\)](#); [Wong, Jocelyn \(BOS\)](#)
Cc: [BOS Legislation, \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Written public comments for Agenda Item #15 (3/17/2026 BOS agenda)
Date: Tuesday, March 17, 2026 1:55:01 PM
Attachments: [\(3_17_2026\) SF BOS written comments \(re_EC ballot placement\).pdf](#)

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Hello,

Please see attached CA Common Cause's written public comments for agenda item #15 on the 3/17/2026 Board of Supervisor's meeting agenda.

Sean M.

Sean McMorris (He/Him)
Transparency, Ethics & Accountability Program Manager
California Common Cause
430 S. Garfield Ave. Suite 418, Alhambra CA 91801
smcmorris@commoncause.org
(626) 382-6994

March 17, 2026

San Francisco Board of Supervisors
Legislative Chamber, Room 250 City Hall,
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place San Francisco,
CA 94102-4689



Re: Agenda Item #15, Charter Section 15.102: Proposed Amendments to Ethics Commission Ballot Authority — OPPOSE UNLESS AMENDED

Dear Supervisors,

California Common Cause **strongly opposes** *the proposed changes to the San Francisco Ethics Commission's ballot placement authority set forth in Agenda Item #15, Charter Section 15.102.*

Transferring final amendment authority over Ethics Commission–sponsored ballot measures from the Ethics Commission to the Board of Supervisors (BOS) would fundamentally undermine the purpose of that authority. San Franciscans—not elected officials—created Ethics Commission ballot placement authority precisely to serve as a structural check on politicians who cannot credibly be expected to regulate themselves. Allowing the BOS final control over measures designed to hold the BOS accountable would defeat the law's intent, invite political interference, and predictably result in diluted or symbolic reforms that erode public trust rather than strengthen accountability.

Such a change would also materially weaken the Ethics Commission's independence by inserting politics directly into one of the Commission's core oversight functions. Ethics oversight is effective only when it is insulated from the very officials it regulates.

That said, there *is* a reasonable way to increase Board engagement without undermining the law's purpose. California Common Cause supports a compromise under which the BOS is granted a public hearing on an Ethics Commission–proposed ballot measure, with the opportunity to propose amendments by majority vote—but without final authority to amend or place the measure on the ballot. This approach meaningfully increases dialogue while preserving the Ethics Commission's independence and the accountability function voters intended.

In closing, allowing the Ethics Commission discretion to place ethics, accountability, and campaign-finance ordinances on the ballot is among the most important safeguards protecting both the Commission's independence and meaningful accountability in San Francisco government. Ethics oversight is one of the few areas in which elected officials should *not* have the final word. Independent oversight is essential to maintaining public confidence and ensuring accountability laws are strengthened when needed, rather than weakened or deferred.

For these reasons, California Common Cause strongly opposes the Task Force's proposed amendments in Agenda Item #15 for Charter Section 15.102 and urges the Board of Supervisors to remove it from consideration. Doing so will preserve the intent of voter-approved law and reinforce public trust in San Francisco government.

If the Ethics Commission's authority to place measures directly on the ballot related to laws within its jurisdiction is repealed or significantly weakened, it is likely that California Common Cause, along with a coalition of good-government groups, will oppose the entire ballot measure.

Sincerely,

Sean McMorris

Transparency, Ethics, and Accountability Program Manager

California Common Cause

smcmorris@commoncause.org

From: [Abusaa, Ryan \(ETH\)](#)
To: [Khoo, Arthur \(BOS\)](#); [Wong, Jocelyn \(BOS\)](#)
Cc: [BOS Legislation, \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Comment Letter re: File # 260147
Date: Tuesday, March 17, 2026 1:13:11 PM
Attachments: [Ethics Commission Letter to Board of Supervisors - 3.17.26.pdf](#)
[Outlook-Graphical .png](#)

Please see attached for a comment letter from Ethics Commission Executive Director Patrick Ford regarding File No. 260147 (Hearing - Proposition E Commission Streamlining Task Force Recommendations, Final Report, and Charter Amendment).

Thank you both!

Ryan Abusaa (he/him)
Senior Policy Research Specialist, Policy Division
San Francisco Ethics Commission
415-252-3106 | sfethics.org
ryan.abusaa@sfgov.org



Office Hours: Monday through Friday, 9am-12pm and 1pm-5pm

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Learn more: Visit sfethics.org/guidance.

Appointment Requests: [Submit an appointment request to meet with staff](#).

Disclaimer: This e-mail does not constitute a written formal opinion of the San Francisco Ethics Commission and would not provide the recipient immunity from any enforcement actions. [Learn more about the Commission's advice regulations](#).



San Francisco Ethics Commission

25 Van Ness Avenue, STE 220
San Francisco, CA 94102-6053
ethics.commission@sfgov.org
415-252-3100 | sfethics.org

March 17, 2026

Members of the San Francisco Board of Supervisors

City Hall, 1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place
San Francisco, CA 94102

Re: Commission Streamlining Task Force's Proposed Changes to San Francisco Ethics Commission Charter Provisions

Dear Members of the Board of Supervisors:

I am writing concerning the Commission Streamlining Task Force [Final Report](#) issued on January 28th. This report contained several recommendations regarding the San Francisco Ethics Commission. The Commission supports the overall recommendation to keep the Ethics Commission and to preserve its unique and independent nature by retaining a broad commissioner appointment structure and retaining Commission appointment of the Executive Director. However, the report recommends constraining the Commission's ability to place ethics and campaign finance measure on the ballot for consideration by voters. This change would not help to streamline City government and would have adverse consequences. I ask that the Board of Supervisors make no changes to the Commission's narrow authority to place ethics and campaign finance measure on the ballot.

I appreciate the work of Chair Harrington and the Task Force in considering this matter. However, on a closely split 3-2 vote, the Task Force approved a recommendation that would undermine the independence of the Ethics Commission and replace a simple, limited process with a complicated, bureaucratic process. Chair Harrington and the representative of the Controller's Office supported keeping the Commission's narrow ability to place certain measures before voters, recognizing that is key to the Commission's effectiveness and independence. Unfortunately, the other three members voted to approve the recommendation that is now before the Board.

We strongly oppose the Task Force's proposed change, as the ability to place measures directly on the ballot is an important tool for ensuring the Commission can develop, enact, and administer effective ethics and campaign finance rules as an independent body. This authority allows the Commission to create and amend important City rules by directly engaging with the voters, without the potential for reforms to be politicized, delayed, or fully blocked by elected officials who would potentially be subject to these rules.

This is an authority that the Commission uses sparingly. The Ethics Commission has only placed five measures on the ballot in the 32 years since the Commission was created by voters. The Commission regularly works on legislation with the Board of Supervisors to strengthen or improve the City's rules, and a ballot measure is typically not necessary. However, the Commission's ability to place measures on the ballot helps ensure that any legislation sent to the Board of Supervisors is fully considered, because the Commission always has the option to go to voters if critical reform laws cannot be passed legislatively. This ability was a core power bestowed by voters when they created the Commission, and it was intended to be an important channel for voters to enact reform laws. Through this authority, the

Ethics Commission has enacted important reforms, including the creation of the City's Public Financing Program and the expansion of the City's annual ethics training requirement to all City officials who make or participate in making government decisions.

The charter currently establishes this authority through a single sentence, which allows the Commission to place measures related to ethics and campaign finance matters on the ballot by a four-fifths vote of its members. The proposed charter amendments from the Task Force would replace this simple, yet limited authority, with more than a page of complicated processes, which would allow the Board of Supervisors to veto important ethics reforms. Even if the Board did not veto, the proposed amendments would require a protracted timeline for any potential Commission-led measures, which would make it nearly impossible for the Commission to place a measure on the ballot. This new language does not streamline City government, and I do not believe this is what the voters intended the Task Force to do when approving Proposition E.

The ability of the Ethics Commission to place measures directly on the ballot, without Board approval, is an important policymaking tool that the Commission uses sparingly. It should be preserved.

Additionally, the Task Force has recommended removing the seat-specific qualifications for members of the Ethics Commission, instead changing them to a list of "desirable qualifications." This is an unnecessary change that could lead to under-qualified commissioners being appointed in the future. I recommend the current qualifications remain in place.

Thank you for your consideration and helping ensure the Ethics Commission remains an independent and effective body, capable of promoting the highest standards of ethical behavior in the City. If you have questions or would like to further discuss, please contact myself (patrick.ford@sfgov.org) or our Policy & Legislative Affairs Manager, Michael Canning (michael.a.canning@sfgov.org).

Sincerely,

Patrick Ford

Patrick Ford
Executive Director
San Francisco Ethics Commission

From: [Karen Fleshman](#)
To: [Board of Supervisors \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: on Commissions
Date: Tuesday, March 17, 2026 7:21:10 AM

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Dear Supervisors,

My name is Karen Fleshman, I am the founder of the Interracial Sisterhood Coalition, a member of Blide Memorial Church. I reside in District 5 and am a homeowner, mother, and caregiver to my mother.

I write to demand you not diminish the power of commissions in San Francisco governance.

Throughout history, San Francisco has been a place where people who experienced persecution for their race, gender, sexuality could seek safety.

This safety wasn't given, people in San Francisco fought for it,

Marginalized people fought to get commissions established so that those closest to the problem could make policy and educate others like them about their rights. So that people like them with problems had a place to go to solve them.

When I moved to San Francisco in 2012 I felt safer than any place I have ever lived because women have real political power in San Francisco. I am not harassed when I walk down the street. I am treated with kindness and respect.

This is why the Women's Commission and Human Rights Commission should remain in the Charter and not be moved to the administrative code, one step closer to being eliminated.

I am also opposed to diminishing the power of the Police Commission. In 2015 San Francisco ranked 8th among US cities in police executions per capita. Mario Woods was the 6th person SFPD executed in 2015. The Mario Woods Coalition rose up to demand change. Because of the power of the Police Commission, SFPD adopted a new Use of Force policy and implemented the US Department of Justice's 272 recommended reforms. It is extremely important that the Police Commission continue to provide strong civilian oversight to protect the people most likely to have harmful encounters with police. I urge you to listen to Judge LaDoris Cordell make the case for strong civilian oversight of SFPD at a 2016 Board of Supervisors Committee of the Whole hearing on police accountability: <https://youtu.be/pRQjJi71ryc?si=O4dVRRKVI1VwjXqnL>

The same people who funded the installation of cameras all over San Francisco, including those on top of the Asian Art Museum and SFPL Main, want to take away power from the people and concentrate it in the hands of the Mayor. Mayor Lurie spent \$10 million to get elected.

A vote to diminish the power of commissions diminishes the power of every day San

Franciscans and concentrates it in the hands of a few wealthy powerful people.

Why is that necessary and who does it benefit?

Karen Fleshman, Esq. she hers, Founder
Interracial Sisterhood Coalition



uniting women across difference to secure our collective safety and freedom

Join the Interracial Sisterhood Coalition [here](#)
<https://www.youtube.com/@interracialsisterhood>
Interracialsisterhoodcoalition.com

#unitewomen #endracism #endmisogyny #interracialsisterhood #interracialsolidarity

“Beloved community is formed not by the eradication of difference but by its affirmation, by each of us claiming the identities and cultural legacies that shape who we are and how we live in the world.”- bell hooks

From: [Joanne Lee](#)
To: [Board of Supervisors \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Commission Streamlining Task Force Recommendations: Arts Commission should remain in the Charter
Date: Tuesday, March 17, 2026 9:22:54 AM

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Dear Board of Supervisors,

As the former Deputy Director of Programs at the SFAC, I urge you to reject the Commission Streamlining Task Force Recommendation to move the SFAC authorities to the Admin Code.

If enacted, the Arts Commissioners will be advisory only and no longer able to approve City business (approvals of contracts for public art, grants, and civic design/projects on City property). Instead, this authority will be made either by the new Executive Director, Mayor's Office, or the Board of Supervisors; none of whom will have the sufficient technical expertise, cultural competence, and community relationships to represent and govern across all of these areas. The City will lose the expertise that the SFAC Commissioners bring in architectural design, community planning, visual arts, non profit and arts business management, and relationships across our neighborhood communities.

Further, if the Arts Commissioners are advisory only, the community will not spend their time bringing issues to their attention. Instead, community advocacy will go straight to the Mayor's Office and Board of Supervisors, who lack the subject area expertise to make decisions regarding the arts.

The SFAC governance structure is championed nationally as one of the best municipal arts infrastructures, with strong oversight and checks and balances coupled with community access.

Please retain the Arts Commission's authorities and regulatory functions in the Charter.

Thank you,
Joanne Lee

From: [T.Flandrich](#)
To: [Board of Supervisors \(BOS\)](#)
Cc: [Calvillo, Angela \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Item #15 File 260147 & 260225.3 Commission Streamlining Taskforce Report & Charter Amendment
Date: Tuesday, March 17, 2026 11:53:48 AM

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

17.March 2026

Dear Supervisors,

In 2024, San Franciscans voted for Proposition E, NOT for Prop D:

- We chose NOT to give our mayors greater power
- we chose to ensure public participation continues
- we chose to maintain commission seat qualifications
- we chose to keep annual reports that inform all residents
- we voted for many of the commissions to provide oversight

Today, we urge you **do not rush** this process of a first public discussion with all districts representatives and residents present. There must be more opportunities, more hearings, for public discussion given the volume, complexities of all of these commissions & advisory groups. Please ensure that all residents have access to understanding what is at stake: what will be gained & what will be lost, in eliminating commissions. Adhere to what we voted for in Proposition E.

Proposition E-2024 [Charter Amendment - Commission Reform]

SECTION 1. FINDINGS. (a) The City and County of San Francisco has long been a place that values public service, creativity, political activism, and civic engagement. **And the City's system of participatory government reflects those values.** San Francisco is led not only by elected officials and professional City staff, but also by hundreds of City residents who volunteer their time to serve on City boards and commissions (together referred to in this Section as "commissions"), such as the Planning Commission, the Disability and Aging Services Commission, and the Human Rights Commission.

(b) San Francisco's commissions leverage the perspectives, lived experiences, and expertise of the City's residents, and **ensure that important policy decisions are not made behind closed doors by a powerful few, but through a public and participatory process** that is informed by the very people whom those decisions will impact.

Sincerely,
Theresa Flandrich

District 3

From: [Carol High](#)
To: [Board of Supervisors \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Public comment for 3/17/2026 BOS: Protect Charter Oversight & Community Voice
Date: Tuesday, March 17, 2026 11:57:24 AM

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Hello BOS,

San Francisco is considering major changes to its boards and commissions as part of implementing Prop E. While removing inactive bodies may improve efficiency, current recommendations would also move key commissions out of the Charter, which may weaken or eliminate them in the future.

It is important that Charter commissions protect community voice, civil rights oversight, youth representation, and public accountability. Moving them into the Administrative Code reduces their independence and long-term stability.

Now is the time to ensure that efforts to streamline government do not come at the cost of transparency, oversight, and community representation.

Best regards,

~Carol

"Though she be but little, she is fierce."
~Shakespeare

[TravelSavvy360 blog](#)

From: [Kudrat Dutta Chaudhary](#)
To: [Board of Supervisors \(BOS\)](#); [Board of Supervisors \(BOS\)](#)
Cc: [MandelmanStaff \(BOS\)](#); [MahmoodStaff](#); [SherrillStaff](#); [ChanStaff \(BOS\)](#); [SauterStaff](#); [WongStaff \(BOS\)](#); [DorseyStaff \(BOS\)](#); [MelgarStaff \(BOS\)](#); [Fielder, Jackie \(BOS\)](#); [Walton, Shamann \(BOS\)](#); [ChenStaff](#)
Subject: File No. 260147 : Public Comment Submission (Commission on the Status of Women Charter Amendment)
Date: Tuesday, March 17, 2026 12:57:05 AM
Attachments: [Public Comment Re File No. 260147.pdf](#)

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Dear Board President Mandelman and Members of the Board of Supervisors,

I hope you are well.

I am writing to submit my written public comment regarding File No. 260147, which is scheduled for consideration tomorrow and concerns the recommendations of the Commission Streamlining Task Force and the proposed Charter Amendment affecting Section 4.119 and the San Francisco Commission on the Status of Women (COSW).

Attached please find my letter outlining my comments and concerns regarding the proposal to convert COSW into an advisory body and transfer it from the Charter to the Administrative Code. The letter also references relevant archival materials and historical reports that provide important context on the creation and institutional purpose of the Commission.

For ease of review, I have highlighted relevant sections within the attached materials to assist the Board in considering the historical and institutional context of the Commission.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Kudrat D. Kontilis

Kudrat D. Kontilis
San Francisco, CA

March 17, 2026

San Francisco Board of Supervisors
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place
San Francisco, CA 94102

Re File No. 260147: Opposition to Recommendations and Proposed Charter Amendment Affecting the Commission on the Status of Women

Dear Board President Mandelman and Members of the Board of Supervisors,

I, Kudrat D. Kontilis, am writing to provide comments regarding the proposed Charter Amendment arising from the recommendations of the Commission Streamlining Task Force, which would revise Section 4.119 of the Charter to convert the San Francisco Commission on the Status of Women (COSW) into an advisory body and transfer it from the San Francisco Charter to the San Francisco Administrative Code.

The proposed amendment revises Section 4.119 to state that the Commission on the Status of Women “*shall be an Advisory Body.*” It further provides that the section will be transferred to the Administrative Code effective January 1, 2027, after which it may be amended or repealed by ordinance, pursuant to the Commission Streamlining Task Force’s recommendations (*See Attachment A*). This change would fundamentally alter COSW’s institutional role by removing it from the Charter and converting it from a governance commission with structural authority into an advisory body.

According to the Commission Streamlining Task Force, this modification is intended to provide flexibility to adapt the Commission’s structure in response to potential structural changes to the Department on the Status of Women, including the proposal in the Mayor’s 2025–2026 budget to consolidate the Department under the San Francisco Human Rights Commission within an agency model. The Task Force noted that placing COSW in the Administrative Code would allow its functions and structure to evolve more easily in light of such changes.

While the desire for administrative flexibility is understandable, the historical record suggests that COSW was intentionally established as a governance body with institutional authority rather than as a purely advisory forum.

Archival documents from the City illustrate the purpose behind the Commission’s creation. When COSW was established in 1975, its mandate was to objectively assess the status of women in San Francisco and investigate the barriers preventing women from achieving their rights due

to prejudice or injustice (*See Att. B*). The Commission was intended to serve as a mechanism through which the City could identify systemic inequities affecting women and develop policy responses.

When the City revisited the Commission's structure in 1989, the Mayor's Task Force reviewing COSW concluded that the inequities that led to the Commission's creation had not been remedied. The Task Force found that women continued to face significant challenges including poverty, workplace discrimination, sexual harassment, and violence. It further concluded that COSW required statutory authority, independence, and adequate resources in order to effectively carry out its mandate (*Att. C*). Importantly, that same review examined the possibility of transferring COSW's functions to the San Francisco Human Rights Commission. The Task Force determined that the Human Rights Commission lacked the specialized expertise necessary to adequately address women's rights issues and therefore recommended maintaining COSW as an independent body.

Almost a decade after, in 1998, San Francisco became a national and global leader in gender equity policy when it adopted a local implementation of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW). Through this ordinance, San Francisco became the first city in the United States to apply CEDAW principles to municipal governance. The Commission on the Status of Women played an important role in advancing the gender analysis framework used to evaluate city policies, services, and budget allocations.

Recent data from the City and County of San Francisco demonstrates that the inequities COSW was created to address remain significant today. Women represent approximately 49 percent of San Francisco's population, yet women and gender-marginalized individuals continue to experience persistent inequities in economic security, safety, health outcomes, and representation in leadership. Analyses based on U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey data indicate that women in San Francisco earn significantly less than men on average, reflecting a persistent gender wage gap that contributes to long-term economic insecurity for women and their families.

Women also experience poverty at higher rates than men, with disproportionately severe impacts on single mothers, immigrant women, women of color, and women with disabilities. Health disparities remain significant as well. According to data reported by the San Francisco Department of Public Health, Black mothers represent approximately four percent of births in San Francisco but account for roughly fifty percent of pregnancy-associated maternal deaths, highlighting persistent racial inequities in maternal health outcomes.

These conditions underscore why institutional mechanisms designed to evaluate and address gender inequities remain important.

After reviewing the Commission Streamlining Task Force's discussions at its public meetings, particularly the October 15 meeting, which I attended, it appeared that the conversation surrounding the Commission on the Status of Women focused largely on standardizing the structure of boards and commissions across City government, rather than examining the specific role and purpose of COSW.

While the Task Force evaluated COSW within this broader effort to standardize commission structures, it does not appear that the Task Force examined whether the underlying conditions affecting women in San Francisco have materially changed in ways that would justify reducing the Commission's institutional authority. Historical reviews of COSW have consistently emphasized the need to strengthen the Commission's independence and capacity, recognizing the persistence of gender inequities across multiple policy areas.

For nearly fifty years, San Francisco has embedded gender equity oversight within its governance framework through the Commission on the Status of Women. As the Board considers the proposed amendment to Section 4.119, the question is not only how City commissions are structured, but how San Francisco chooses to institutionalize its commitment to gender equity at this moment in its history.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Kudrat D. Kontilis
Vice Chair, SF Immigrant Rights Commission
Policy Co-Chair, SF Women's Political Committee
Advocacy Officer, SF Young Democrats
(Titles only for Identification Purposes)

ATTACHMENT A

Human Rights

The Task Force discussed and recommended changes to human rights bodies at its July 16 and October 15, 2025 meetings. For more information, please refer to the [July 16](#) and [October 15](#) meeting minutes and accompanying materials (Public Health and Wellbeing [memo](#) and [presentation](#); Inactive Bodies [memo](#) and [presentation](#)).⁴⁵

Advisory Council on Human Rights – Eliminate (inactive)

The Task Force unanimously voted to eliminate this body in its July 16 meeting, as part of a vote to accept staff recommendations to eliminate 31 inactive bodies. Based on available information, the Advisory Council on Human Rights has not met in over 15 years, and staff at the Human Rights Commission do not have information on why it was discontinued.

Next step: ordinance

Commission on the Status of Women – Keep, modify structure and responsibilities, move to Administrative Code

Type	Establishing Authority	Members	Appointing officers	Term length	Term limits	Member removal	Sunset
Decision-making Advisory	Charter Administrative Code	7 11	MYR	4 years	None 3 terms	For cause At will	None
Changes to responsibilities							
Remove department head hiring and firing authority, remove budget and contract approval authority.							

The Task Force recommends keeping the Commission on the Status of Women (COSW), having it take on an advisory role, and moving it from the Charter to the Administrative Code. The Mayor included a proposal in the 2025-2026 budget cycle to consolidate the Department on the Status of Women under the Human Rights Commission in an agency model. This change needs to go to the voters, but these proposed changes illustrate that the Commission should be in the Administrative Code to allow for flexibility to adapt its functions and structure based on new needs. The Commission on the Status of Women has done important work for the City and as an advisory body, it can continue to be a space for meaningful public input on issues impacting women. Its mission will always be relevant, so the body should not have a sunset date.

Next step: ballot measure

Family Violence Council – Keep, modify structure

Type	Establishing Authority	Members	Appointing officers	Term length	Term limits	Member removal	Sunset
Staff Working Group	Administrative Code	28 15	28 15 appointing authorities	None 3 years for public members	None 4 terms for public members	At will	5/1/2027

The Family Violence Council (FVC) is a hybrid staff working group/advisory committee that consists of 25 City employees and 3 members of the public that act as tri-chairs for the body. Despite typically recommending

⁴⁵ All materials can be found at <https://www.sf.gov/commission-streamlining-task-force>

that Staff Working Groups be removed from code/charter, the Mayor’s Office for Victim’s Rights (MOVR) values the current tri-chair structure and so the Task Force recommends keeping this body but making modifications to align with advisory body standards, including reducing the number of members from 28 to 15. Staff worked with MOVR to identify which seats to recommend removing.

Next step: ordinance

Human Rights Commission – Keep, modify structure and responsibilities, move to Administrative Code

Type	Establishing Authority	Members	Appointing officers	Term length	Term limits	Member removal	Sunset
Decision-making	Charter	11	Mayor	4 years	None	At will	None
Advisory	Administrative Code			3 years	4 terms		
Changes to responsibilities							
Remove department head hiring and firing authority, remove budget and contract approval authority.							

The Task Force recommends keeping the Human Rights Commission, having it take on an advisory role, and moving it from the Charter to the Administrative Code. The Mayor included a proposal in the 2025-2026 budget cycle to consolidate the Department on the Status of Women under the Human Rights Commission in an agency model. This change needs to go to the voters, but these proposed changes illustrate that the Commission should be in the Administrative Code to better adapt functions and structures based on new needs. The Task Force discussed that its recommendations are intended to speak to the body’s larger role in advising on human rights citywide, and that the body adds more value in advising the City rather than focusing on oversight of a relatively small department. Given the ongoing importance of human rights, the Task Force recommends not adding a sunset date.

Next step: ballot measure

Immigrant Rights Commission – Keep, modify structure

Type	Establishing Authority	Members	Appointing officers	Term length	Term limits	Member removal	Sunset
Advisory	Administrative Code	15	Mayor (4) BOS (11)	2 years 3 years	None 4 terms	At will	None

The Task Force recommends keeping the Immigrant Rights Commission, which advises the Mayor and Board of Supervisors on issues and policies affecting immigrants in San Francisco. It recommends making minor changes to term lengths and limits.

Next step: ordinance

LGBTQI+ Advisory Committee – Keep, modify structure

Type	Establishing Authority	Members	Appointing officers	Term length	Term limits	Member removal	Sunset
Advisory	Administrative Code	25 15	Human Rights Commission	None 3 years	None 4 terms	At will	None

The Task Force recommends keeping the LGBTQI+ Commission, which plays an important advisory role to the Human Rights Commission, focusing on discrimination and issues affecting the LGBTQI+ community.

ATTACHMENT B

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SAN FRANCISCO
COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN

RULES & PROCEDURES

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RULES & PROCEDURES
for
THE COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN

DOCUMENTS
MAY 25 1975
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1. At present, membership of the San Francisco Commission on the Status of Women (hereafter referred to as Commission) will be comprised of eleven members who will select by election a chairperson and vice-chairperson.

2. The duly elected chairperson will communicate with the Board of Supervisors and other appropriate officials, will preside over regularly scheduled meetings, prepare agenda, and supervise the coordination of media, public relations. Election of the chairperson will be held annually or if appropriate at the end of the incumbent's term on the commission.

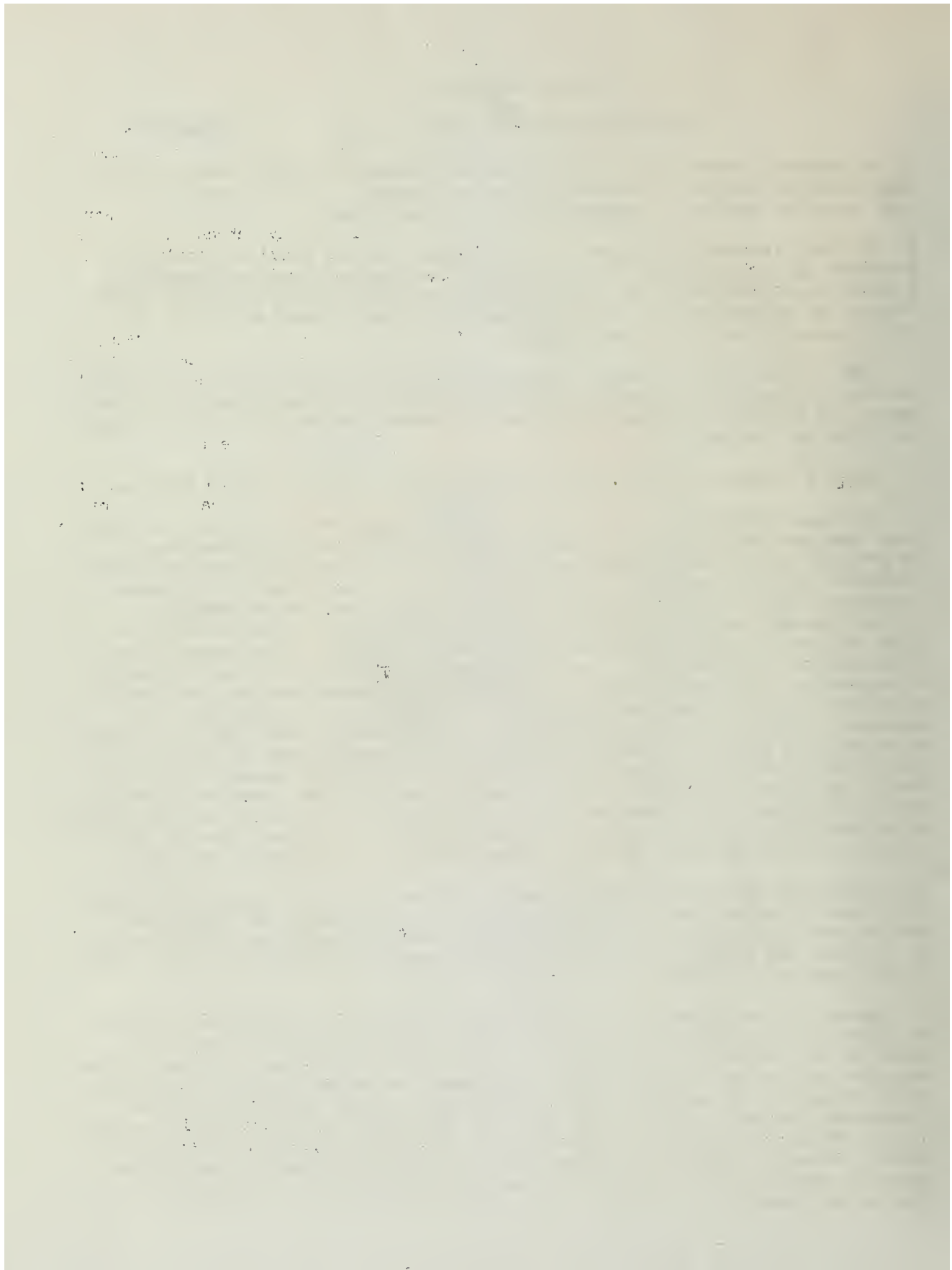
The Vice-chairperson should be nominated and duly elected from the remaining ten Commissioners and will assume the duties of the chairperson in her or his absence. In addition, the Vice-chairperson will assist the Chairperson in carrying out duties of the Chair.

3. Rules of Order will be governed by Roberts Rules of Order, Revised Edition.

4. Meetings will be held on the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month at 7:30 P.M. Emergency meetings can be called at the discretion of the chairperson or by petition of six Commissioners to the Chairperson. The regular meetings of the Commission will be devoted to: policy decisions, business involving the entire Commission, official correspondence, Committee reports, matters of community interest brought orally or in writing to the Commissioners. Meetings will conclude with oral communications from members of the audience. Such speakers are encouraged but not obligated to supply Commission members with written information in advance of their presentation. Such speakers may communicate with the Commission Coordinator and their presentations will be limited to five minutes. All meetings will be open to the public with the exception of matters dealing strictly with personnel matters. Meetings and locations of meetings shall be posted publicly and delivered in writing or personally to newspapers of general circulation, radio, and television stations. In the event an emergency or otherwise unscheduled meeting is called, notice must be delivered personally or by mail to each Commissioner 48 hours prior to meeting time. Such notice must include time, location, and business to be transacted. No other business shall be considered at such time.

5. Voting will not be permitted by proxy. The presence of six Commissioners will constitute a quorum. When a quorum is present, the adoption of any motion shall require the concurrence of a majority of those present. Voting on all matters may be by voice vote unless the chair or a commissioner wishes a roll call vote. Voting on the election of officers will be by secret ballot.

6. Agenda will be prepared by the chairperson. Items to be emphasized, included, or placed on the agenda of any regular meeting shall be on file with the chairperson by noon Tuesday of the week prior to the scheduled meeting. Any commissioner may place an item on the agenda. The agenda shall be mailed so as to reach members of the Commission by Monday preceding the regular meeting. Community groups and individuals can ask for items to be placed on the agenda, for the following meeting, during that section reserved for community participation. Emergency procedures for placing community issues that must be acted upon immediately due to time or other impending factors, will originate with the chairperson and at the discretion of the Commissioners.



7. Committees will be established subsequent to ascertainment of priorities and dependent upon community needs.

8. Committees will be set up not to exceed ten members, at least two of whom shall be Commissioners appointed by the Chairperson; the Chairperson and the Commissioners will then select the remainder of the committee. A Commissioner will chair each committee and sub-committees of unlimited numbers will be formed if the need arises. One commissioner should be a member of each subcommittee but not necessarily its chairperson. Commissioners shall be appointed to their respective committees by the chairperson with chairperson taking into account the expertise and talents of the Commissioners.

For discussion of the purpose, priorities and possible committees, the Rules and Procedures Committee offers the following:

PURPOSE- The purpose of the San Francisco Commission on the Status of Women is to objectively discern what the actual status of women is in our community and from this base, investigate the potentials, goals, directions, needs, and rights of women. This information to be utilized to insure that the women of San Francisco are not and will not be prevented from achieving any goals or rights to which they are entitled as members of society by prejudice or other injustice.

PRIORITIES- Ongoing priorities will be established by contributions from Commissioners, community groups, and individuals. Initial priorities will be established by the Commission to establish a base of operations for forming initial committees.

COMMITTEES- Initial committees should include legislative, educational and employment.

August 12, 1975

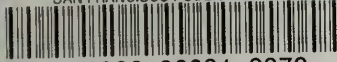


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ATTACHMENT C

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**Report of the
Mayor's Task Force
on the
Commission on the
Status of Women**

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REFERENCE BOOK

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ROBERTA ACHTENBERG
ATTORNEY AT LAW

April 10, 1989

Honorable Art Agnos, Mayor
200 City Hall
San Francisco, California 94102

Dear Mayor Agnos:

On January 31, 1989 you convened a task force to study options for the administrative structure for an entity charged with protection of women's rights in San Francisco. The Task Force is pleased to present its report to you at this time.

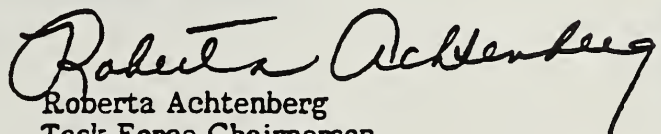
We have examined the status of women in San Francisco today and have concluded that the inequities which supported creation of the Commission on the Status of Women in 1975 have not been remedied and that, in fact, women have become increasingly imperiled by conditions of poverty, violence against women, and gender-based discrimination and harassment in the workplace. We have presented findings to document the need for continued effort to achieve true equality of the sexes.

We have developed a range of structural options under which the functions necessary to the protection of women's rights might be performed, and we have concluded that if any such entity is to do an effective job, it needs statutory power, independence, and adequate staff and budgetary resources.

We are presenting you our study of options, with our strong recommendation that the City create an independent, strengthened Commission on the Status of Women.

Thank you for requesting our assistance in exploring this critical issue. We remain ready to work further with you in any way that might be useful to you.

Sincerely,


Roberta Achtenberg
Task Force Chairperson

**REPORT OF THE MAYOR'S TASK FORCE ON THE
COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN**

PROTECTION OF WOMEN'S RIGHTS IN SAN FRANCISCO

Prepared at the Request of the Honorable Art Agnos

March 1989



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TABLE OF CONTENTS

Task Force Members	i
Executive Summary	1
Introduction	5
Method	6
Findings	7
Statement of Purpose for any entity Charged with Protecting Women's Rights	9
Primary Functions and Authorities Necessary to any Entity Charged with Protecting Women's Rights	9
Structural Options	12
Option #1: COSW as an Independent City Commission	12
Option #2: Office of Women's Rights under the HRC	16
Option #3: The Women's Advocate of San Francisco	19
Recommendations	21
Appendices	
Appendix A: COSW Programs and Accomplishments	
Appendix B: COSW September 1988 report	
Appendix C: Public hearing summary	
Appendix D: Original and Amended COSW Ordinances	

MEMORANDUM

TO : [Illegible]

FROM : [Illegible]

SUBJECT : [Illegible]

[Illegible text follows, consisting of several paragraphs of faint, unreadable text.]

MAYOR'S TASK FORCE ON THE
COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN

Roberta Achtenberg, Chairperson

Roberta Achtenberg
Lesbian Rights Project

Lidia Ahumada
Concerned Citizenm, Mission Dist;
Lecturer in Nursing at
Domingez Hills State University

Betty Armstrong
Peat Marwick & Main

Shirley Black
Pres, SEIU Local #790
Mgr, Audio-Visual Dept, SFUSD

Diana Christensen
Past Chair, COSW

Dorothy Dana
Attorney for the
University of California, Berkeley

Patsy Fulcher
Aileen Hernandez Associates

Barbara Garner
IBM Executive Offices

Jean Harris, Aide to
Supervisor Harry Britt

Mary Jansen
Retail Clerks Union

Kate Monaco Klein
Forencis Services
Community Mental Health Services

Sue Martin
Family Violence Project

Linda Mjellem
Pacific Telesis

Resa Peay-Wainwright
Human Resources Director
KQED, Inc.

Leslie Rainey
UFCW Local 115

Drucilla Ramey
Bar Assn of San Francisco

Lois Salisbury
Public Advocates

Pat Shiu
Employment Law Center

Dr. Mimi Silbert
Delancey St. Foundation

Kim Alice Smith
Bethany United Methodist
Church

Esta Soler
Family Violence Project

Kathy Owyang Turner
Chinese for Affirmative
Action

Samantha Yruegas, Pres.
Bay Area Network of Latinas

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Introduction

The San Francisco Commission on the Status of Women (COSW) was created in 1975 in an effort by the City to achieve equality of the sexes, in terms both of basic rights and of equal access to services and protection by public agencies. The COSW was created based on findings that tradition and prejudice had historically resulted in unequal economic, political, legal and social status for women.

Since its inception the COSW has identified many areas where inequities and barriers harm and restrict women. But because of its own lack of power it has been unable to address them effectively. In 1980 COSW's powers were further limited by amendments to the Administrative Code which gave authority over COSW staff and budget to the director of the Human Rights Commission (HRC).

The Task Force concludes that if the COSW is to do the job for which it was created, it needs statutory power, independence, and adequate staff and budgetary resources.

In September 1988 a broad-based group of women asked newly elected Mayor Art Agnos to appoint a panel to study discrimination against women in San Francisco. In response, he created a special Task Force on the Commission on the Status of Women to study and develop a range of structural alternatives by which to address gender-based discrimination in San Francisco. This document outlines the Task Force's method, describes the alternatives, and offers final recommendations.

Method

The Task Force met from January 31st to March 28th to discuss the history of the COSW and the HRC, to review existing resource materials, and to take public comment. The Task Force examined the appropriate mission of an entity charged with protecting the rights of women, defined the issues it ought to be concerned with, outlined the authority needed to address them effectively, and developed a range of structural options under which these functions might be performed.

Findings

The Task Force found that the inequities which supported creation of the COSW in 1975 have not been remedied and that women have become increasingly imperiled by conditions of poverty, violence against women, and gender-based discrimination and harassment in the workplace.

The Task Force also found that while the existing Commission has done significant and impressive work, its current structure and authority are inadequate.

Based on these findings, the Task Force designed a statement of purpose and enumerated the functions that need to be performed by whatever structural entity is charged with ensuring women's rights in San Francisco.

Statement of Purpose

The purpose of a Commission on the Status of Women (or any alternative structure established by the City) is to advance women's equality in San Francisco and to help the City and County of San Francisco realize its policy to ensure every inhabitant, woman or man, equal economic, political, social and educational opportunities and equal services and protection by public agencies.

Primary Functions and Authorities

1. Advocacy of women's rights and issues: The COSW should be charged with performing a significant institutionalized advocacy role within the City with respect to the rights of, and issues affecting, all women in San Francisco.
2. Reform of currently ineffective regulatory structure: The COSW should be mandated to study and make recommendations to the Mayor and the Board of Supervisors regarding the most effective legal and functional structure for the City's enforcement of the rights of all women in San Francisco to secure equal access to programs and services and to be free from gender-based discrimination, including sexual harassment.
3. Advisory role: The COSW should serve as the chief advisor to the Mayor, the Board, the Chief Administrative Officer, and all department and commission heads on matters affecting women in San Francisco, and should function as the chief voice within City government for women.
4. Grants administration: The COSW should continue to perform its currently mandated function of administering domestic violence monies in San Francisco.
5. Auditing function: When there appears to be a possible problem within a City department that falls within COSW's purview, COSW should be empowered to perform a program and budget review which addresses the nature and scope of its services to women and its pattern of employment for women. In order to perform these and other functions, COSW must be legislatively provided with subpoena power, the power to hold public hearings, and the power to request audit assistance from the Controller's Internal Audits Division.

6. Monitoring of gender-based discrimination complaints: The COSW should be legislatively mandated to monitor all complaints of gender-based discrimination filed by City employees and employees of City contractors. The COSW should be charged with making recommendations to departments as to how to handle each such complaint and with monitoring the department's response.
7. Training role: All City departments and agencies should be statutorily required to conduct annual training and informational programs for supervisors and employees, the structure and content of which should be subject to COSW review and approval. The programs should focus on problems of gender-based discrimination, including sexual harassment.

In order to perform the duties enumerated above, the COSW's ordinance should include a statement indicating it is the City's policy to require full cooperation with the COSW by other City agencies.

Structural Options

Option #1 provides that under the leadership of the Mayor, the City would create an independent COSW operating under a broad legislative mandate, with a correspondingly larger budget and staff, and with control over its staff and budget. The Commission would be reduced in size to five commissioners in order to create a more cohesive and focused deliberative body. The executive director would be a Civil Service exempt appointee of the Commission. Staff would include a minimum of 5 1/2 people, possessing the skills necessary to implement the primary functions of the restructured Commission.

Option #2 recognizes that the HRC currently exists to address human rights issues generally, and therefore proposes to transfer the functions of the COSW to the HRC and dissolve the 11-member Commission on the Status of Women. It would establish the Office of Women's Rights within the HRC, with a director comparable to heads of other units within the HRC. This option is dependent upon a clear commitment from top leadership within the HRC to the advocacy of women's rights. The staff would include a minimum of 6 1/2 people, one more than the independent COSW option. The additional position is predicated on the important notion that creating an agency within an existing organization requires additional effort to ensure the visibility and viability of the newly consolidated function and the integration of women's rights activities with the work of preexisting units of the HRC.

Option #3 envisions the Women's Advocate of San Francisco, a private nonprofit entity capable of engendering wide support throughout the community, but which would also have a direct, formal link to the Mayor's office and would have a voice in the running of City business and development of City policy. It would be governed by a board of directors, one member of which would be a deputy mayor.

The staff would be appointed by the board, and would be comparable in makeup to that of an independent COSW. Funding would come from a public/private partnership under which the City would dedicate the proceeds of a city-collected fee as a continuing source of public funding and the Women's Advocate would solicit supplemental or contingent funding from private sources.

The report discusses the pros and cons of each option.

Recommendations

1. Structure

It is the conclusion of the Task Force that an independent entity with appropriate statutory powers should be established and charged with protection of the rights of women in San Francisco. The Task Force therefore recommends adoption of Option #1, creation of an independent, strengthened COSW, as the only model which can currently address women's issues with specific focus, visibility and accessibility.

The Task Force has also looked critically at the structure of the existing COSW and at two other alternative models. As stated above, the current structure is inadequate to the task and cannot be considered an option. Change must occur if there is to be a viable City-sponsored entity in charge of protecting the rights of women.

The Task Force finds Option #2, an Office of Women's Rights within the HRC, unacceptable because the HRC currently lacks the kind of expertise critical to protection of women's rights and because the HRC has been unable to demonstrate that it considers women's issues a priority. However, recognizing the value of an omnibus human rights agency, the Task Force does not dismiss reassessment of the HRC as a suitable umbrella for the COSW at some time in the future.

The Task Force found elements of Option #3, the Women's Advocate of San Francisco, intriguing, but ultimately rejected it as unacceptable and impractical. The major objection to it is the instability of its funding mechanism. Further, the legal issues and the questionable nature of its link to City government also raise serious concern.

2. Purpose and Function:

The Task Force examined the appropriate mission, goals, and legal authorities of any entity charged with protecting the rights of women, and developed consensus on a Statement of Purpose and on Primary Functions and Authorities. It is the conclusion of the Task Force that these elements are critical to the success of whatever entity is established, and should be included in appropriate format in the ordinance which establishes that entity.

From: [Bridget Maley](#)
To: [MandelmanStaff \(BOS\)](#); [ChanStaff \(BOS\)](#); [ChenStaff](#); [DorseyStaff \(BOS\)](#); [Fielder, Jackie \(BOS\)](#); [MahmoodStaff](#); [MelgarStaff \(BOS\)](#); [SauterStaff](#); [SherrillStaff](#); [Walton, Shamann \(BOS\)](#); [WongStaff \(BOS\)](#); [Board of Supervisors \(BOS\)](#)
Cc: [Woody LaBounty](#)
Subject: Board File 260147: Proposition E Commission Streamlining Task Force Recommendations, Final Report, and Charter Amendment
Date: Tuesday, March 17, 2026 12:35:36 AM

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March 16, 2026

President Rafael Mandelman
Members of the Board of Supervisors
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, Room 250
San Francisco, CA 94102

Regarding Board File 260147: Proposition E Commission Streamlining Task Force Recommendations, Final Report, and Charter Amendment

Dear President Mandelman and Members of the Board of Supervisors:

While I generally appreciate the overall intent of finding ways to make government more efficient and citizen friendly, the current Commission Streamlining Task Force (Task Force) has over extended its jurisdiction. Evaluation of the Task Force recommendations is a substantial and complex undertaking that requires far more public engagement and thought than has occurred to date. While there are a number of recommendations from the Task Force that appear worthy, many have overshoot their target and will have dramatic and negative impacts on the citizens of San Francisco. Two recommendations proposed by the Task Force with regard to the Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) are particularly misguided.

Proposition J was passed in 2008 by the voters of San Francisco creating our Historic Preservation Commission. It greatly enhanced San Francisco's historic preservation program meeting the professional requirements of the Department of the Interior's standards for Certified Local Government (CLG) program. This means that San Francisco's program was on par with New York, Los Angeles, and Seattle and eligible for Federal grants. San Francisco joined a larger network of more than 2,000 cities nationwide operating in an established and consistent manner to protect historic and cultural resources in tandem with development. Cities participating in the program and with access to its benefits have commissions composed of experts in their fields and operate with ordinances that share time and legally-tested provisions. Unfortunately, two Task Force

recommendations would undermine San Francisco's historic preservation program.

To retain the city's professional standing, HPC member expertise should remain a requirement and not be changed to "desirable." Currently specific areas of expertise are required, but the expertise categories provide ample flexibility in meeting the standards. Given our city's size and diversity, San Francisco does not want for talented preservation architects, preservation planners, architectural historians to serve on our HPC giving it the professional composition it deserves and that was established under Proposition J.

Retaining the HPC's survey, designation, project review and oversight responsibilities in the City Charter is the surest way to maintain an independent and objective historic preservation program rather than, as proposed by the Task Force, moving them to the Planning or Administrative Code. Once these duties have been removed from the City Charter, they are subject to political interference.

Retention of HPC required expertise as well as its duties under the City Charter will reinforce the nearly 60 years of effort to ensure that San Francisco is on par with other American cities with iconic historic buildings, neighborhoods, parks and sites that contribute to tourism dollars and international stature. It will reverse the will of voters as shown in the positive support for Proposition J in 2008.

Finally, I oppose "At Will" rather than "For Cause" removal of any commissioners. This Task Force recommendation puts commission independence at risk and diminishes the voices of San Francisco residents.

Please thoroughly consider all of the Task Force's recommendations and provide further opportunities for public engagement prior to adopting these broad and potentially damaging recommendations.

Sincerely,
Bridget Maley
32 year resident of District Two
Former President of the Landmarks Preservation Advisory Board (Newsom Appointment)
Current Board Member California Preservation Foundation
Founding Member Neighborhoods United SF

--

Bridget Maley
bridget.maley@gmail.com

From: [Diane Jones Lowrey](#)
To: [Calvillo, Angela \(BOS\)](#)
Cc: [Board of Supervisors \(BOS\)](#); [DOSW, DOSW \(WOM\)](#)
Subject: For March 17 Prop E Streamlining Board of Supervisors Meeting
Date: Monday, March 16, 2026 11:08:30 PM
Attachments: [Preserve the Governance Authority and Independence of the San Francisco Commission on the Status of Women.pdf](#)

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Dear Board of Supervisors, (pdf attached below)

Preserve the Governance Authority and Independence of the San Francisco Commission on the Status of Women

The proposal to downgrade the San Francisco Commission on the Status of Women (COSW) from a Charter-established governing commission to an advisory body represents a fundamental weakening of the City's commitment to equity, democratic accountability, and community-led governance. At a moment when women, girls, and gender-nonconforming people face growing threats to their rights, safety, and representation, San Francisco must strengthen—not sideline—the institutions designed to protect them.

The case for maintaining COSW's independence and governing authority is clear: **its history of impact, its unique role as a public accountability body, and the real risks posed by consolidating power under executive control.**

A Commission Born of Community, Proven by Results

COSW was established in 1975 by the Board of Supervisors following years of sustained advocacy by San Francisco's women's community. It was later affirmed by voters, becoming the first chartered Commission on the Status of Women in the United States. This origin matters. COSW was not created as an internal advisory group—it was designed as an independent governing body with the authority to hold City systems accountable to women and gender-marginalized communities.

That authority has produced measurable, lasting results.

COSW was instrumental in making San Francisco the first city in the nation to locally implement the **Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW)** in 1998. This was not symbolic. The ordinance reshaped how City departments examined budgets, services, and policies through a gender-equity lens, setting a national and international precedent.

After the 2000 killing of Claire Joyce Tempongko exposed deep failures in San Francisco’s domestic violence response, COSW led the development of the **Justice and Courage Blueprint**, driving reforms across police, probation, and the courts. These reforms did not emerge from advisory memos; they required a governing body with the authority to convene agencies, demand data, and push for systemic change.

COSW also helped establish cross-agency structures that still exist today, including the **Family Violence Council** and the **Sexual Assault Response Team**, ensuring that survivors’ experiences informed policy across departmental silos.

While the Department no longer oversees domestic violence grants, the expertise and experience within the department will be leveraged to ensure cross-department collaboration and management of these important community programs remains top of mind for the city.

This is what governance authority enables: **action, coordination, and accountability.**

An Essential Platform for Public Voice and Oversight

COSW provides one of the few consistent, public forums where advocates, community-based organizations, and residents can engage directly with City leadership. Public comment regularly draws 4–10 speakers per meeting—a testament to the Commission’s relevance and accessibility.

In recent years, COSW has:

- - Overseen a citywide community survey to identify priorities for women and gender-marginalized residents
- - Advanced grantmaking to protect reproductive health care access in the wake of the *Dobbs* decision
- - Tracked women’s representation in public spaces, which remains far below the City’s stated 30% goal
- - Elevated public health research on trans women and supported LGBTQ+ business owners
-

Highlighted programs serving young women of color and girls in sports

- Supported reforms within the San Francisco Police Department, including advocacy for lactation spaces for officers
- Elevated the voices of incarcerated women subjected to abuse
- Reviewed the Department on the Status of Women reports and surfaced credible, community-grounded recommendations

These functions depend on independence. An advisory body—particularly one whose members and director serve at the pleasure of the Mayor—cannot credibly challenge policy failures, elevate uncomfortable truths, or protect community trust.

Downgrading COSW Weakens Accountability and Concentrates Power

The decision by the Commission Streamlining Task Force to recommend downgrading COSW is not a neutral structural change. It would **fundamentally alter the balance of power**.

Under the proposed advisory model:

- The Mayor would gain authority to hire **and** fire the Department Director
- Commissioners could be removed or replaced at will
- COSW's ability to set agendas, demand information, and issue independent findings would be curtailed

This represents a concerning consolidation of authority at precisely the moment when **independent oversight is most needed**.

Across the country, women's rights are under sustained attack—from reproductive freedom to bodily autonomy to economic security. Locally, San Francisco continues to grapple with gender-based violence, inequitable access to health care, underrepresentation in leadership, and persistent disparities affecting women of color, trans women, and low-income families.

Reducing COSW to an advisory committee sends a clear message: that women's equity is no longer a governing priority, but a consultative afterthought.

At the recent convening of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women, the United States was the lone vote against adopting the outcome document agreeing to women's access to justice. The United States, represented by a man, objected to definitions of gender, language around reproductive health, and references to gender ideology. Fortunately, the rest of the world disagreed and moved forward, emphasizing continuity with existing global frameworks and a broader, inclusive approach to gender equality. The United States is not on the right side of history, but San Francisco can be.

Governance Status Is Not Redundant; It Is Protective

Some argue that the existence of the Department on the Status of Women makes COSW's governing role unnecessary. This misunderstands the relationship between the two.

The Department was created by voters in 1994 precisely to **implement the policies of the Commission**. COSW sets direction, ensures accountability, and reflects community priorities; the Department executes programs and services. This separation mirrors best practices in public governance, where **independent oversight bodies exist to prevent politicization, ensure transparency, and maintain continuity across administrations**.

Eliminating COSW's governing authority collapses this safeguard and weakens public trust.

The Cost of Silence Is Greater Than the Cost of Independence

San Francisco prides itself on being a national leader in equity, inclusion, and progressive governance. That leadership is not abstract; it is built through institutions willing to name inequities, challenge power, and persist across political cycles.

Former COSW commissioners remain deeply engaged because they understand what is at stake. Their advocacy reflects decades of lived experience: when commissions lose independence, community voices fade, accountability erodes, and hard-won progress is easily reversed.

Maintaining COSW's governing authority is not about preserving tradition. It is about **protecting a proven mechanism for change**.

Recommendation: Maintain COSW as an Independent Governing Commission

The Board of Supervisors should reject the proposed downgrade and reaffirm the Commission on the Status of Women as a **Charter-established governing body** with:

-

Independent appointment and removal protections

- Authority to set policy priorities and agendas
- Oversight of the Department on the Status of Women
- A public forum for community accountability and participation

Anything less diminishes the City's commitment to gender equity and democratic governance.

At a time when women's rights and safety are increasingly contested, San Francisco must choose leadership over retreat, accountability over consolidation, and power-sharing over silence.

The Commission on the Status of Women must remain independent, and it must retain the authority to govern.

Best,

Diane Jones Lowrey, District 7 Resident

Diane Jones Lowrey
415.939.4433
djoneslowrey14@gmail.com

Preserve the Governance Authority and Independence of the San Francisco Commission on the Status of Women

The proposal to downgrade the San Francisco Commission on the Status of Women (COSW) from a Charter-established governing commission to an advisory body represents a fundamental weakening of the City's commitment to equity, democratic accountability, and community-led governance. At a moment when women, girls, and gender-nonconforming people face growing threats to their rights, safety, and representation, San Francisco must strengthen—not sideline—the institutions designed to protect them.

The case for maintaining COSW's independence and governing authority is clear: **its history of impact, its unique role as a public accountability body, and the real risks posed by consolidating power under executive control.**

A Commission Born of Community, Proven by Results

COSW was established in 1975 by the Board of Supervisors following years of sustained advocacy by San Francisco's women's community. It was later affirmed by voters, becoming the first chartered Commission on the Status of Women in the United States. This origin matters. COSW was not created as an internal advisory group—it was designed as an independent governing body with the authority to hold City systems accountable to women and gender-marginalized communities.

That authority has produced measurable, lasting results.

COSW was instrumental in making San Francisco the first city in the nation to locally implement the **Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW)** in 1998. This was not symbolic. The ordinance reshaped how City departments examined budgets, services, and policies through a gender-equity lens, setting a national and international precedent.

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Maintaining COSW's governing authority is not about preserving tradition. It is about **protecting a proven mechanism for change**.

Recommendation: Maintain COSW as an Independent Governing Commission

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- Independent appointment and removal protections
- Authority to set policy priorities and agendas
- Oversight of the Department on the Status of Women
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Anything less diminishes the City's commitment to gender equity and democratic governance.

At a time when women's rights and safety are increasingly contested, San Francisco must choose leadership over retreat, accountability over consolidation, and power-sharing over silence.

The Commission on the Status of Women must remain independent, and it must retain the authority to govern.

Best,

Diane Jones Lowrey, District 7 Resident

From: [Renee Georgulas](#)
To: [Board of Supervisors \(BOS\)](#)
Cc: [DOSW, DOSW \(WOM\)](#); [Calvillo, Angela \(BOS\)](#); [Andary, Sophia \(HRC\)](#)
Subject: Support for the Commission on the Status of Women
Date: Monday, March 16, 2026 10:42:14 PM

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Dear Members of the San Francisco Board of Supervisors,

I am writing to urge you to protect the San Francisco Commission on the Status of Women and vote NO on the proposed changes from the Commission Streamlining Task Force.

Established in 1975 after years of community advocacy and a vote by the Board of Supervisors, the Commission on the Status of Women remains the only city body specifically tasked with advancing gender equity in San Francisco. It plays a critical role in reviewing city policies and budgets and holding government accountable.

The Commission also provides an important public forum where community members can speak, be heard, and participate in decisions that affect their lives. Despite its small size, it is one of the most diverse bodies in city government, bringing essential lived experience and expertise to its work.

Removing the Commission's chartered independence or weakening its governance authority would compromise its ability to provide meaningful oversight and accountability. This includes ensuring the Commissioner has a role in decisions related to hiring and firing the department head and in matters concerning the department's budget, as well as protecting the Commissioner from removal by the Mayor without cause.

I respectfully urge you to vote down the proposed changes and maintain the Commission on the Status of Women as a chartered, independent body with its full powers and responsibilities intact.

San Francisco needs strong, independent institutions that ensure women, girls, and nonbinary people are represented and heard in city decision-making.

Thank you for your time and for protecting accountability in our local government.

Sincerely,

Therese R Georgulas

Noe Valley

From: [Alison Goh](#)
To: [Board of Supervisors \(BOS\)](#); [ChanStaff \(BOS\)](#); [ChenStaff](#); [DorseyStaff \(BOS\)](#); [Fielder, Jackie \(BOS\)](#); [FielderStaff](#); [MahmoodStaff](#); [MandelmanStaff \(BOS\)](#); [MelgarStaff \(BOS\)](#); [SauterStaff](#); [SherrillStaff](#); [Walton, Shamann \(BOS\)](#); [WongStaff \(BOS\)](#)
Cc: [LWVSF Advocacy](#)
Subject: Vote no on Commission streamlining changes, Protect women's voices in our local government
Date: Monday, March 16, 2026 9:19:11 PM
Attachments: [2026-03 Commission on streamlining letter to BOS.pdf](#)

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Dear Members of the San Francisco Board of Supervisors,

I am writing to urge you to vote no on the proposed changes from the Commission Streamlining Task Force. At a time when voting rights are under attack, San Francisco should be strengthening its commitment to advancing equity and representation of civic organizations dedicated to our fragile democracy.

The one-size-fits-most template approach removes power from historically marginalized and underrepresented groups, whose voices we should be amplifying and uplifting especially in today's troubled times.

Protect women's voices on the Sunshine Ordinance Task force: Removing the League of Women Voters' nominated seat on the Sunshine Ordinance Task Force would not only undercut vital representation, but also broadcast that San Francisco's government leaders are abandoning their support of the long-fought and continually-defended right for women to vote and engage in our local government. The League of Women Voters of San Francisco has been among the most committed organizations to the Sunshine Ordinance Task Force, consistently ensuring that its seat is not only filled, but filled with a member of the highest caliber of diligence and commitment to implementing the Sunshine Ordinance.

Keep the nonpartisan and trusted voice of the League on the Ballot Simplification Committee: League members bring experience with plain language and effective engagement, combined with knowledge of voter empowerment. The nominees that the League has brought forth have often added much needed diversity to the Committee. The League has been consistently appointing a thoughtful, qualified, and dedicated member to the BSC for decades – sourcing nominees that are truly independent and not part of a political popularity contest.

Retain the independence of the Commission on the Status of Women: Despite its small size, it is one of the most diverse bodies in city government, bringing essential lived experience and expertise to its work. Removing the Commission's chartered independence or weakening its governance authority would compromise its ability to

provide meaningful oversight and accountability. This includes ensuring the Commissioner has a role in decisions related to hiring and firing the department head and in matters concerning the department's budget, as well as protecting the Commissioner from removal by the Mayor without cause.

Uphold checks and balances with the Ethics Committee: Taking away the ability of the Ethics Committee to place ballot measures before the voters would undercut the independent authority of the Committee. San Francisco voters deliberately granted this power in 1993 to ensure the Ethics Commission could act when City Hall would not, and since then they have used it sparingly.

San Francisco needs strong, independent institutions that ensure women, girls, and nonbinary people are represented and heard in city decision-making. We have repeatedly voiced our concerns with removing the League's unique perspective and representation on the committees such as the Sunshine Task force, in letters and testimonials from current and former members. To date, our requests have been ignored.

We urge you to reject the proposed changes put forth by the Commission Streamlining Task Force. Thank you for your time and consideration.

In unity,

Alison Goh

Alison Goh
Co-President
president@lwvsf.org
pronouns: she/her

League of Women Voters of San Francisco
582 Market Street, Suite 615, San Francisco, CA 94104
415-989-8683 ▪ [Facebook](#) ▪ [Twitter](#)
Empowering voters. Defending democracy. Learn more at lwvsf.org.



March 17, 2026

San Francisco Board of Supervisors
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, Room 250
San Francisco, CA 94102

RE: Protect women's voices in our local government

Dear Members of the San Francisco Board of Supervisors,

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The one-size-fits-most template approach removes power from historically marginalized and underrepresented groups, whose voices we should be amplifying and uplifting especially in today's troubled times.

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Empowering voters. Defending democracy.

League of Women Voters of San Francisco

582 Market Street, Suite 615, San Francisco, CA 94104 ■ 415-989-8683 ■ lwvsf@lwvsf.org ■ lwvsf.org

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We urge you to reject the proposed changes put forth by the Commission Streamlining Task Force. Thank you for your time and consideration.

In unity,



Alison Goh, Co-President

From: [Laura Stein](#)
To: [Board of Supervisors \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Public Comment on the Commission Streamlining Task Force's Recommendations
Date: Monday, March 16, 2026 6:39:16 PM

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March 16, 2026

San Francisco Board of Supervisors
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, Room 250
San Francisco, CA 94102

My vote for Prop E was a vote to review the workings of commissions to improve the administration of City government. I voted for a ballot measure that purported to recognize the role of commissions in ensuring that SF government functions as a public and participatory process and one in which the perspectives, lived experience and expertise of residents is highly valued. I expected, as the measure said, an “evidence-based review” of commissions to identify those that added value, and those that could be consolidated, streamlined or improved.”

That’s not, however, what I got. Instead, I got a set of recommendations that weaken the independence and authority of commissions in ways that have no clear connection to the Proposition’s stated goals of efficacy, efficiency or economy. The Commission Streamlining Task Force’s recommendations weaken many governance commissions by moving them from the Charter to the administrative code where their structures and functions can be more easily altered by elected officials rather than voters. Other recommendations would increase mayoral control over some commissions whose members can now be removed by the mayor at-will rather than for cause. Other recommendations would remove the powers and authority of some commissions to review contracts and to hire or fire department heads.

The overall effect of these recommendations is fourfold. They reorder the balance of power between the Mayor, Board of Supervisors and Commissions, harming the current system of checks and balances. They also weaken the independence of commissions, reducing their autonomy and oversight capacity. They reduce public engagement by providing fewer and less meaningful opportunities for regular citizen participation, and they threaten San Francisco’s strong history of participatory democracy and community voice.

No compelling or convincing rationale is given for these changes. The report claims that these changes improve City Administration by solving several unsubstantiated “problems” put forth as adopted principles. Namely, improving public input, creating clear lines of accountability, making government easier to understand, and using City resources responsibly. Most of these problems do not align with the goals of Prop E in any logical way, nor with the recommendations they purport to justify.

The Report says it will improve accountability by making only elected officials accountable for City performance. This principle bears no relation to the goals of efficiency, economy or efficacy. It does presume that elections are the only form of accountability, as opposed to ongoing voice and participation in democratic processes.

The report says it will make government more consistent and understandable through standardization. Yet, it offers no evidence whatsoever that this is a problem. In addition, its recommendations of terms limits, sunset dates, and revised appointment and removal processes do little to make any commission or the overall system more understandable to the public.

The Report’s objective of making the City more economical or efficient is hardly addressed. The Task Force points out that the financial cost of running commissions is \$33.8 million and says that fewer commissions will result in fewer dollars spent. However, this figure is a tiny fraction of San Francisco’s City budget, which was estimated to be \$14.5-14.6 billion dollars in 2023-2024 and 2024-2025. There has been no thorough analysis of the cost or impact of eliminating or combining commissions, particularly where their functions must continue. The Budget and Legislative Analyst Report mandated by Prop E itself acknowledged that they had insufficient data to estimate cost savings. In many cases, the survey respondents on whom they based their data indicated that eliminating commissions could increase expenses. Moreover, there was no attempt to assess the value of the services provided by commissioners or the cost of replacing them with paid positions, should their functions continue. This reality is also acknowledged in Budget and Legislative Analyst Report.

San Francisco’s commission system allows for greater citizen participation and oversight in democratic governance, with different commissions giving residents different degrees of decision-making power. Commissions allow residents to determine how information is shared, policies and goals set, resources allocated, programs operated, and benefits distributed. These powers help assure ongoing government transparency and accountability in a way that simply voting every four years cannot. The process may also bring efficiencies to government in the form of services and expertise provided for free by

commissioners and in the form of more engaged and participatory decision-making that can help direct resources and services more effectively than centralized or consolidated decision-making without ongoing public input.

The Commission Streamlining Task Force did identify active commissions, inactive ones, and those whose functions are redundant. I have no objection to recommendations related to these findings. However, the Task Force's own report offers no good reason for curbing the independence of commissions by removing them from the Charter, or for removing the powers and authority of any commissions. The Board should reject any recommendations that seek to do so.

Laura Stein
San Francisco

From: [Blakely, Dominique \(HRC\)](#)
To: [Calvillo, Angela \(BOS\)](#)
Cc: [Board of Supervisors \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Re: Statement Regarding the Commission Streamlining Task Force Recommendations for the Commission on the Status of Women
Date: Monday, March 16, 2026 5:55:48 PM
Attachments: [Outlook-waxfkgw.png](#)
[COSW Statement to BOS.pdf](#)
[Outlook-tb1t53jg.png](#)

Good evening, Madam Clerk,

On behalf of the Commission on the Status of Women, I am resubmitting the attached statement, which was approved by a unanimous vote by Commissioners on January 27, 2026. We kindly request its distribution to all Board members.

Thank you for your assistance, and please let me know if you have any questions.

Best regards,
Dominique



Dominique Blakely | Executive Management Assistant
she/her
San Francisco Dept. on the Status of Women
Engage. Educate. Empower.
p: (415) 252-3205
w: [Department on the Status of Women | SF.gov](#)

From: Blakely, Dominique (HRC) <dominique.blakely@sfgov.org>
Sent: Thursday, February 5, 2026 10:50 AM
To: Calvillo, Angela (BOS) <angela.calvillo@sfgov.org>
Subject: Statement Regarding the Commission Streamlining Task Force Recommendations for the Commission on the Status of Women

Good morning, Madam Clerk,

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she/her

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p: (415) 252-3205

w: [Department on the Status of Women | SF.gov](https://www.sfdph.org/dph/ohrt/StatusofWomen/Pages/default.aspx)



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Vice President

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Commissioner

CECILIA CHUNG
Commissioner

DR. SHOKOOH MIRY
Commissioner

DR. ANNE MOSES
Commissioner

DR. RAVEENA RIHAL
Commissioner

DOMINIQUE BLAKELY
Commission Secretary

The Commission on the Status of Women

THE CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO

February 4, 2026

Re: Statement Regarding the Commission Streamlining Task Force Recommendations for the Commission on the Status of Women

Dear Members of the Board of Supervisors,

On behalf of the San Francisco Commission on the Status of Women, we submit this statement as approved by a unanimous vote by Commissioners on January 27, 2026.

San Francisco's commitment to equity, accountability, and community-informed governance is threatened by the proposal to downgrade the Commission on the Status of Women from a Charter-established governing body to merely an advisory committee. The central argument is this: reducing the Commission's authority will fundamentally weaken its ability to deliver real results for women, girls, and gender-nonconforming people.

Women, girls, and gender-nonconforming people face threats to their rights and representation. San Francisco must reinforce— not reduce—the institutions that protect them.

The Commission on the Status of Women was established in 1975 after years of advocacy by the women's community and later affirmed by voters. It was not created to offer suggestions from the sidelines. It was designed as an independent governing body with authority to hold City systems accountable.

And that authority has delivered results.

COSW helped make San Francisco the first city in the nation to implement Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) locally, reshaping how departments examine budgets, policies, and services through a gender-equity lens. It helped establish the Family Violence Council and the Sexual Assault Response Team, ensuring survivor experiences informed policy across agencies. More recently, the Commission has protected reproductive health access after the U.S. Supreme Court decision in *Dobbs*, tracked women's representation in public spaces and addressed public safety, elevated research on trans

women, supported LGBTQ+ businesses, advocated for lactation spaces in the Police Department, and elevated the voices of incarcerated women subjected to abuse.

This is what governance authority enables: action, coordination, and accountability.

Downgrading COSW is not neutral restructuring. It would concentrate power by allowing the Mayor to hire and fire the Department Director, remove commissioners at will, and limit the Commission's ability to set agendas or issue independent findings, as advisory bodies may not direct staff or department activities. That is precisely the opposite of transparency and oversight.

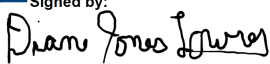
Some may argue that if the Department on the Status of Women remains in place, there is no need for governance by the COSW and therefore, its status as an advisory body does not change how the Department and COSW function in practice. That misunderstands the system. Voters created the Department to implement the Commission's policies—not to replace its oversight. This separation between the Department and its Commission protects independence, continuity, and public trust.

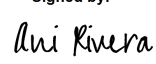
San Francisco's leadership on equity has never been symbolic. It has relied on strong civilian oversight, active civic participation, and the lived experiences of community members to ensure equity work remains accountable to the public.

The cost of silence is far greater than the cost of independence.

To fully protect equity, accountability, and community voice in San Francisco, the Commission on the Status of Women must remain independent and retain its governing authority. Preserving the Commission's power is essential to upholding our City's longstanding values and ensuring effective oversight.

Sincerely,

Signed by:

6CD98519621049B
Diane Jones Lowrey
President
San Francisco Commission on the
Status of Women

Signed by:

9BB99742FB4A47F...
Ani Rivera
Vice President
San Francisco Commission on the
Status of Women

From: [Mitchell Omerberg](#)
To: [Board of Supervisors \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: BOS Item Full Mtg Mach 17, 2026 - Item 15
Date: Monday, March 16, 2026 5:12:30 PM
Attachments: [letter to Bd re Rent Board Director.pdf](#)

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Please include in file.



March 16, 2026

Board of Supervisors
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place
City Hall Room 260
San Francisco, CA 94102

Re: Proposition E Commission Streamlining Taskforce Recommendations – Rent Board

Dear Supervisors,

We are writing to oppose giving the Mayor sole power to appoint the Director of the Rent Board. After considering various changes to the Rent Board, as well as hearing from the community, the task force decided to preserve the Rent Board's current structure. So it is surprising to see this proposal surface now.

The rationale for giving the Mayor sole appointment authority over department heads is that, with commission appointments split between the Mayor and the Board of Supervisors, the executive branch needs this authority to more effectively govern.

But the Rent Board doesn't have split appointments. The Mayor appoints all the Rent Board Commissioners, two landlords, two tenants, and one neutral.

Unlike any other commission, the Rent Board is quasi-judicial. The Rent Board deals with disputes between landlords and tenants. This can be contentious, but the Rent Board's legitimacy with both landlords and tenants and the groups representing them is derived from its balanced makeup.

And the Director of the Rent Board's own legitimacy derives from being selected by a Rent Board made up of an equal number of landlords and tenants. A director chosen solely by the Mayor will not have that legitimacy.

In addition, the Rent Board Commission has a lot of expertise in a complex and multilayered area of law which includes the San Francisco Rent Law itself, the regulations implementing the Rent Law and adopted by the Board over time, and numerous other laws both state and local that come to bear. The job the Rent Board does requires a lot of specialized experience hearing, discussing, and deciding appeals. The Rent Board also adopts rules and regulations, a task that

71 Norwich Street, San Francisco, CA 94110 415-756-3037

www.sfaffordablehousingalliance.org

requires a lot of experience hearing appeals, in order to understand what the regulations need to say and how they might be need to be changed.

It makes no sense to bypass this knowledgeable and specialized commission when appointing a Rent Board Director.

It should be noted that in addition to the absence of split commission appointments at the Rent Board, the Rent Board has always chosen its director in consultation with the Mayor. There has been a complete absence of conflict or confrontation in so doing and this has been true for the entire Rent Board's existence. This is in no small part due to the voices of both landlords and tenants in the form of the Rent Board Commissioners being part and parcel of the decision.

There is no problem here to be fixed and changing the process will undermine the legitimacy of both the Rent Board and its Director.

Sincerely,

Mitchell Omerberg

Mitchell Omerberg
Director

From: [lgpetty](#)
To: [Board of Supervisors \(BOS\)](#); [BOS-Legislative Aides](#)
Subject: Followup: Timeframe for Board Actions on Commission Streamlining Taskforce Proposed Charter Amendment, File 260147 & 260225 and Forthcoming Ordinances
Date: Monday, March 16, 2026 4:47:41 PM

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Dear Supervisors,

(Please refer to my previous Stop the Rush email of March 14 as below last.)

Re Timeframe for Board Actions:

As Prop E is written, **nothing** mandates skipping Committee hearing(s); **nothing prohibits many additional** full Board hearings... or prohibits holding informational Town Halls...or prohibits the Board from **NOT** putting a Charter amendment on the November ballot. In fact, **there is no date or time frame specified in Prop E for submission of a Commissions Streamlining Charter revisions ballot to voters.**

Additionally, re proposed Commission Streamlining Ordinances, there is nothing stopping Supervisors from taking a "**disapproved**" action on all proposed CS Ordinances within the prescribed 90-day period, with the goal of allowing more (or unlimited) consideration and deliberation time for them as (duplicated file or resubmitted) Ordinances.

I'm all for changes where necessary. And some are needed. But the current process shuts down due dialogue between the public and its elected representatives on these momentous issues that have such consequential impacts on all San Franciscans.

Narrowing the timeframe for public participation and interaction with Supervisors in the current manner promotes the appearance of political elite, top-down imposition of unreasonable, incomprehensible upheavals of long-established agreements.

The Board has the power to effect maximum two-way, clear, sufficient, and respectful communication.

The Board, starting with President Mandelman, has the authority to

Stop the Rush!

Thank you

Lorraine Petty D2 voter
Advocate for Seniors and Affordable Housing

March 14, 2026 email

Dear Supervisors.

Since establishment of Commissions, Advisory and Oversight bodies in San Francisco was a 100+ year process of lengthy, thoughtful and hard-fought collaborations and consensus-building to protect residents from government corruption and abuses, I believe it will severely short-change the public to consider and decide the fate of all of these official bodies in only two Board hearings (only a week apart).

Proposed Commission Streamlining Charter and Ordinance changes are too numerous for any constituency to fully comprehend in a single month.

This absurdly-rushed process of massively changing SF's carefully-created Commissions etc gives the public the impression of glossing over many devils hidden in the details. It looks like a massive transfer of power is proposed: taking it away from the public and giving it to current and future Mayors. These proposals go far beyond the scope directed by Prop E.

And the Board has bypassed the normal 30-day rule & Committee examination in order to hold a Full Board hearing only 14 days after establishing file receipt at the Board of the enormous package.

This shortening of consideration might be appropriate in considering alterations or elimination of a single Commission, but certainly not for analysis by the public and the Board of major changes to 152 Commissions, Boards and Advisory bodies. The "Commission Streamlining" package contains a proposed 166-page Charter Amendment and 308-page set of proposed change Ordinances.

The package is derived from the highly complex and already- controversial Commission Streamlining Task Force Final Report recommendations for elimination of 60 oversight bodies, and retention of 86 bodies (albeit severely altering many, or applying a disastrous one-modification- formula-fits-all). This is accompanied by a serious undermining of the current methods and qualifications of expertise in choosing Commission appointees; coupled with removal of many Charter-created bodies from Charter protection, opening up Commissions and other bodies to arbitrary Board elimination or back-room tinkering.

A chart of the proposed fate of each Commission, Board and Advisory body can be found starting on **page 8** of the full Task Force Report with some brief explications starting on **page 46**:

https://media.api.sf.gov/documents/Commission_Streamlining_Task_Force_Final_Report.pdf

A useful analysis of the 134-page Task Force Final Report can be found:

<https://westsideobserver.com/26/3-sf-governance-overhaul-streamlining-task-force-boards-mayoral-power.php>

Some might argue that more than enough time has been devoted to the change proposals; that the Task Force spent a year, and held 18 public hearings.

But these hearings were little-known or publicized.

And I witnessed some of them. It shocked me to see the speed of decisions made without discussion (as if pre-determined) and in apparent disregard for the opinions of the public expressed in person and through emails and letters. The Task Force seemed weighted in favor of government- and institutional-minded individuals -- out-of-sync with the public's desires for oversight and anti-corruption protections, currently, and in originally establishing these bodies.

What I saw was a Task Force appearing to view its goal solely as making government operations cheaper and faster. Government's democratic obligations to prioritize public participation and scrutiny were made light of or ignored.

I recommend to the Board of Supervisors that several months of hearings are needed, with time for 11 district-wide educational sessions and plenty of interactive dialogue between Board members and the public. Time to absorb, consider, and include a diversity of viewpoints. The public has the right to be given a thorough, accessible explanation of reasons for such widely-impactful changes and their exact, real-life effects. The public has the right to have their participation and oversight be maintained at the highest levels. No democratic government has permission to eliminate, reduce, or mute these rights.

In other words:

If anyone is thinking about betraying the public's trust...

If anyone is considering removal of 16 bodies from Charter protection...

If anyone is thinking about eliminating 60 bodies, including: the Housing Stability Fund Oversight Board (politically knee-capped watchdog of ballot-created Prop I), Dignity Fund Providers Working Group (ballot-created), Dignity Fund Oversight and Advisory Committee (ballot-created, diluting it into the Advisory Council to the Aging and Disability Services Commission), SFMTA Bond Oversight Committee, Long Term Care Coordinating Council, Our City Our Home Oversight Committee (ballot-created Prop C watchdog), Public Works Commission, Citizens Committee on Community Development...

If anyone is considering drastically limiting the authority of bodies such as the Planning Commission, Port Commission, Commission on the Status of Women...

BEST NOT DONE IN HASTE.

Democracy requires time and patience, with maximum inclusion and equality of application. (And money, of course. But ironically these so-called reforms don't even offer a balm of saving any significant taxpayer dollars.)

Stop the Rush. Stop the Folly.

Lorraine Petty D2

Advocate for Seniors and Affordable Housing

From: [Dillon, Zachary \(PDR\)](#)
To: [Chan, Connie \(BOS\)](#); [Sherrill, Stephen \(BOS\)](#); [Sauter, Danny \(BOS\)](#); [Wong, Alan \(BOS\)](#); [Mahmood, Bilal \(BOS\)](#); [Dorsey, Matt \(BOS\)](#); [Melgar, Myrna \(BOS\)](#); [Mandelman, Rafael \(BOS\)](#); [Fielder, Jackie \(BOS\)](#); [Walton, Shamann \(BOS\)](#); [Chen, Chyanne \(BOS\)](#); [Board of Supervisors \(BOS\)](#)
Cc: [BOS-Legislative Aides](#); [BOS Clerks Office \(BOS\)](#); [PDR-Integrity](#); [Goossen, Carolyn \(PDR\)](#)
Subject: Letter opposing Task Force recommendations for Police Commission
Date: Monday, March 16, 2026 3:11:07 PM
Attachments: [Public Defender Letter Opposing Commission Task Force Recommendations.pdf](#)

Good Afternoon Supervisors,

Please find the attached letter opposing the Commission Streamlining Task Force recommendations related to the Police Commission.

Thank you,

Zac Dillon (he / him)
Integrity Unit, Office of the Public Defender
Zachary.Dillon@sfgov.org

March 16, 2025

San Francisco Board of Supervisors
San Francisco City Hall
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place
City Hall
San Francisco, CA 94102
Submitted via Electronic Mail

Re: Proposed Changes to the Police Commission's Authority

Dear Members of the Commission Streamlining Task Force:

I am writing on behalf of the Public Defender's Office to strongly oppose the Task Force's recommendations to consolidate Police Commission (Commission) authorities under the Mayor and to limit the Commission and Department of Police Accountability's (DPA) independence in overseeing the San Francisco Police Department (SFPD). The proposed changes would reverse voter-approved checks and balances, dangerously centralize authority, and worsen documented administrative delays in issuing police discipline.

For 100 years, the San Francisco Public Defender's Office has provided dedicated and zealous legal representation to individuals charged with a crime and unable to afford an attorney. Our mission is to protect and defend the rights of our clients and community through effective, vigorous, compassionate, and creative legal advocacy.

In a brief half page of the report,¹ the Task Force recommends ten modifications to the operation and powers of the Police Commission:

1. Remove this Board's ability to approve or reject mayoral Commission appointments
2. Remove this Board's oversight on the mayor's power to remove a Commissioner
3. Remove the Commission's role in hiring and firing the Chief of Police
4. Give the Commission direct hiring and firing authority over DPA Director
5. Transfer the power to discipline for severe cases from the Commission to the Chief of Police
6. Transfer the Commission's role in discipline to an Administrative Law Judge (ALJ)
7. Make the Commission serve as an appellate body for the ALJ and Chief's discipline decisions
8. Eliminate the DPA Director's ability to recommend discipline the chief disagrees with

¹ https://media.api.sf.gov/documents/Commission_Streamlining_Task_Force_Final_Report.pdf at page 79.

9. Remove the requirement that at least one Commissioner have trial experience as an attorney
10. Create term limits for Commissioners

The introduction of term limits is a benign change to the operation but the other suggestions will have a significant negative impact on the work of police oversight.

Preserve the Board’s Appointment and Oversight Role

The proposed changes undermine voter-approved reforms designed to check the Mayor’s authority. San Francisco’s Charter intentionally splits appointment and removal authority of Commissioners between the Board of Supervisors and the Mayor to preserve independence for one of the City’s most consequential bodies. The Charter and voters have vested this Board with a role in the decision to approve and remove Commissioners.

The prior administration’s practice of having Commissioners sign a letter to “pre-resign” upon appointment was rightly and promptly ended once it was exposed in the press. This Task Force’s recommendation that the mayor have unilateral firing ability would, in effect, codify that [widely-criticized policy](#) in the Charter. The proposed change would gut the current system of checks and balances where the Board of Supervisors approval is required to remove a commissioner. Protecting Commissioners who act on evidence and conscience—even when political winds shift—is essential to maintaining meaningful oversight.

Two years ago, [San Francisco voters expressly](#) rejected efforts to shift power toward the Mayor by voting down Proposition D, an ordinance with identical language to what is now being presented by the Task Force, by more than 13 percentage points. Furthermore, San Francisco voters have repeatedly voted for more [oversight](#), [transparency](#), and [accountability](#) in policing. Resubmitting this question to the ballot, despite voters’ clear decision, undermines the stability of the democratic process and the integrity of voter-approved reforms.

Moreover, gifting unilateral authority to the Mayor to hire and fire the Chief of Police would erode that independence and cuts against police oversight best practices nationally. The risks here are as obvious as they are serious: oversight, reforms, or internal dissent may be suppressed when a majority of Commissioners are directly beholden to a single political actor.² When independent oversight is undermined, police misconduct becomes harder to detect, deter, and discipline.

² See Fair & Just Prosecution, *Promoting Independent Police Accountability Mechanisms: Key Principles for Civilian Oversight of Law Enforcement* (June 2021), <https://www.fairandjustprosecution.org/staging/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/FJP-Civilian-Oversight-Issue-Brief.pdf>; Cleveland Community Police Commission, *Best Practices for Civilian Oversight of Police* (Sept. 2019), <https://clecpc.org/wp-content/uploads/Best-Practices-for-Civilian-Oversight-of-Police-2019.pdf>.

Maintain the Commission’s Authority to Impose Discipline

Moving all discipline authority to the Chief relegates the Commission to a largely advisory role—precisely the model academic research on police oversight warns against. Purely advisory bodies seldom provide effective oversight or accountability because they are consistently associated with lower compliance,³ weaker legitimacy,⁴ and less ability to leverage better outcomes.⁵ By contrast, independence is “widely understood to be imperative” to an oversight agency’s legitimacy and success.⁶ The [pioneer of the modern police oversight movement](#), Merrick Bobb, documented how advisory bodies without binding authority or structural independence fail because their findings can be too easily ignored.⁷

It is recognized nationally that police discipline decisions should be insulated from the political process.⁸ San Francisco’s current structure balances efficiency with necessary independence by allowing the Chief to adjudicate minor misconduct cases while allocating serious misconduct cases to the Commission.

Transferring serious cases that the Commission currently adjudicates to an Administrative Law Judge is a drastic change that would all but entirely remove the Commission from the discipline process.⁹

Prioritize DPA’s Independence

Equally troubling, the proposed changes will quietly eliminate [DPA’s longstanding authority](#) to file disciplinary charges directly with the Commission. Without this ability, the agency becomes purely advisory. Because the Chief has frequently rejected or minimized its findings, DPA’s authority matters more than ever.

[A 2022 study by DPA of its sustained misconduct](#) cases sent to the Chief showed the Chief disagreed with DPA’s discipline recommendations in nearly six out of 10 cases, declining to impose discipline at all in 23% of cases and imposing lower discipline

³ National Association for Civilian Oversight of Law Enforcement (NACOLE), *Impediments & Challenges to Civilian Oversight* 2-3, 14 (Oct. 10, 2024), https://assets.nationbuilder.com/nacole/pages/1302/attachments/original/1728589148/NACOLE_REP_ORF_FINAL_Impediments_and_Challenges_20241010.pdf?1728589148=&.

⁴ *Id.*

⁵ Peter Finn, *Citizen Review of Police: Approaches and Implementation* (2001) (NCJ No. 184430), <https://www.ojp.gov/pdffiles1/nij/184430.pdf>.

⁶ Office of Community Oriented Policing Services, *The Evolution and Growth of Civilian Oversight: Key Principles and Practices for Effectiveness and Sustainability* 12 (COPS W0951, 2021), <https://portal.cops.usdoj.gov/resourcecenter/content.ashx/cops-w0951-pub.pdf>.

⁷ Bobb, Merrick (2003) "Civilian Oversight of the Police in the United States," *Saint Louis University Public Law Review*: Vol. 22: No. 1, Article 10, <https://scholarship.law.slu.edu/plr/vol22/iss1/10>.

⁸ See [Oakland’s Police Commission](#), the Los Angeles Independent Board of Rights, the Chicago [Police Board](#), and the Milwaukee [Fire and Police Commission](#).

⁹ See, Paul Chignell, Public Comment at Special Meeting of the Commission Streamlining Task Force, January 14, 2026 https://sanfrancisco.granicus.com/player/clip/51583?view_id=236&redirect=true at 3:11:33, explaining that only six serious cases were appealed to an ALJ since the process began.

than what DPA recommended 15% of the time. Similarly, [between 2017 and 2019](#), the Chief agreed with DPA’s findings in sustained misconduct cases less than half the time and disciplined just 45% of the time.

It is essential that San Francisco protect DPA’s independent authority in discipline matters. Otherwise, the Task Force’s changes risk dismantling its core strength and cuts against what voters demanded when they [created](#) and [repeatedly](#) strengthened civilian oversight in prior reforms.

Strengthen Accountability Through Timely Discipline

Delays in Chief-imposed discipline are well documented. [DPA’s 2023 ‘Key Issue’ memo](#) found that 55% of cases referred to the Chief for discipline had awaited adjudication for more than a year. Further burdening the Chief with sole authority over *all cases* would only worsen these backlogs, keeping officers accused of serious misconduct on the street—or in the so-called “[rubber room](#)”—potentially for years while still drawing taxpayer salaries. Crucially, those officers could also testify in criminal trials while knowledge of their misconduct accusations remains hidden from the jury by SFPD’s byzantine, opaque discipline system.

The Need for Accountability Remains Urgent and Visible

After more than a decade of reoccurring high-profile scandals and [expensive police misconduct litigation](#), weakening independent oversight now sends the wrong message to the public.

Transferring authority from the Commission to the Chief hides the oversight process when we should be seeing more. Police should not police themselves because too often scandals are hidden behind a blue wall of silence.¹⁰ San Francisco must continue the work voters have long sought: binding oversight authority, multiple independent voices, and transparent timelines to deliver prompt, impartial discipline. Consolidating power in the Mayor, narrowing the Commission’s authority, and eliminating DPA’s charging power reverses that progress.

For these reasons, we strongly oppose the recommended changes.

Respectfully submitted,

Zac Dillon
Senior Law & Policy Analyst, Integrity Unit
San Francisco Public Defender

¹⁰ Eric Arnold, *Police Misconduct: Combatting the Complicity Crisis*, Nw. U. J. of Criminal Law & Criminology Vol. 115, Issue 1, Article 4 (Winter 2025), <https://scholarlycommons.law.northwestern.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=7781&context=jclc> (observing how internal police discipline systems perpetuate rather than curb misconduct).

From: [Michael Nulty](#)
To: [Board of Supervisors \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Request to Amend Prop E Streamlining Recommendations – Protect Charter Status, Independence, and Authority of Core Oversight & Equity Commissions
Date: Monday, March 16, 2026 2:16:37 PM

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San Francisco Board of Supervisors
City Hall, Room 244
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place
San Francisco, CA 94102

Re: Request to Amend Prop E Streamlining Recommendations – Protect Charter Status, Independence, and Authority of Core Oversight & Equity Commissions

Dear President and Members of the Board of Supervisors,

On behalf of the Alliance for a Better District 6, a grassroots organization dedicated to equitable development, community safety, and strong democratic accountability in San Francisco’s District 5 and 6, we write to urge you to amend the final Prop E implementation recommendations. We respectfully request that the Board preserve the Charter-protected status of core oversight and equity commissions, maintain their full investigative and enforcement authority, and reject changes that would render commissioners “at-will” rather than “for-cause” appointees.

In November 2024, San Francisco voters approved Proposition E with 53% support, establishing the Commission Streamlining Task Force to recommend ways to modify, eliminate, or combine appointive boards and commissions for the more effective, efficient, and economical administration of City government. Voters supported Prop E to cut bureaucracy and improve governance — not to dismantle the independent oversight and equity commissions they themselves had placed in the Charter through prior ballot measures. Regrettably, the general public has been largely ignored throughout this reform process. Despite hundreds of public comments, hearings, and widespread community engagement, the Task Force’s recommendations appear to disregard voter intent and community voices, advancing changes that consolidate power rather than honor the mandate for balanced, accountable government. Politics should not be rewarded this way. For the future of San Francisco government, reforms must uphold the checks and balances San Franciscans voted to protect — not erode them through backdoor power shifts.

San Francisco currently maintains 152 boards and commissions. The Streamlining Task Force recommendations appropriately retain 87 of 115 active bodies and eliminate 60 inactive or redundant ones. However, the proposal to move 18 active bodies out of the Charter and into the Administrative Code — reducing Charter-

authorized bodies from 42 to 24 — fundamentally undermines the permanence, independence, and authority of commissions that voters deliberately placed in the Charter.

These commissions were not created by administrative whim; they were placed on the ballot by broad coalitions and approved directly by San Franciscans. Moving them to the Administrative Code makes them vulnerable to elimination or weakening by a simple majority vote at any time, exposing them to political retaliation and eroding the checks and balances San Franciscans voted to protect.

At stake are the following vital bodies:

- Human Rights Commission
- Youth Commission
- Children, Youth, and Their Families Oversight Advisory Committee
- Commission on the Status of Women
- Commission on the Environment
- Disability and Aging Services Commission
- Homelessness Oversight Commission
- Small Business Commission
- Building Inspection Commission
- Sheriff's Department Oversight Board
- Police Commission
- Historic Preservation Commission

These are not inactive or duplicative entities. They deliver civil-rights enforcement, public-safety oversight, youth voice in policymaking, environmental review, disability and aging services accountability, and homelessness outcomes. Weakening them is not “streamlining” — it is power consolidation that voters never approved.

We therefore ask the Board to adopt the following amendments to the Prop E recommendations:

1. **Keep Core Oversight & Equity Commissions in the Charter.** Do not move active civil-rights, youth, disability, environmental, and homelessness oversight bodies into the Administrative Code. Charter status guarantees structural independence and long-term stability.
2. **Preserve Full Oversight and Investigative Authority.** Oversight without enforcement power becomes purely symbolic. Commissions must retain their statutory ability to investigate, issue subpoenas where authorized, and hold agencies accountable.
3. **Protect Youth and Community Representation.** The Youth Commission and other youth-focused structures must remain Charter-protected so that institutionalized youth voice cannot be quietly dismantled.

4. **Maintain Independent Removal Standards.** Reject any shift from “for-cause” to “at-will” removal of commissioners. Changing this standard turns independent watchdogs into political appointees who must toe the line or risk immediate dismissal — defeating the very purpose of independent oversight.

We are particularly alarmed by the proposed gutting of the Homelessness Oversight Commission and related bodies. Voters created this commission — along with the Prop C Our City Our Home oversight body — precisely because prior advisory structures failed to deliver accountability. The recommendations would eliminate three critical functions: announced and unannounced shelter inspections (protecting vulnerable residents from exploitation and abuse), due-process oversight for shelter placement, and deep financial scrutiny of Prop C spending to ensure evidence-based solutions rather than political whims. These roles cannot be replaced by city staff; the loss of independent expertise will be devastating and will save no meaningful resources.

Checks and balances matter. Equity infrastructure is not bureaucracy. Efficiency must never come at the expense of democratic accountability or community voice — especially for historically marginalized residents of District 6 and across San Francisco.

We therefore respectfully request that the Board of Supervisors amend the Prop E recommendations before final adoption to:

- Retain Charter status for all listed oversight and equity commissions;
- Preserve their investigative and enforcement authority;
- Maintain “for-cause” removal protections; and
- Honor the clear intent of voters who placed these bodies in the Charter.

Thank you for your leadership in protecting the democratic institutions that make San Francisco work for everyone.

Sincerely,
Michael Nulty
Executive Director
Alliance for a Better District 6

Michael Nulty

P.O. Box 420782
San Francisco, CA 94142-0782
(415) 339-8327 - Direct
(415) 339-8779 - Alliance for a Better District 6
(415) 339-8683 - Central City Democrats
(415) 937-1289 - North of Market Business Association

(415) 820-1412 - Tenderloin Futures Collaborative
<http://abd6.cfsites.org/>

From: [Stan Hayes](#)
To: [Board of Supervisors \(BOS\)](#)
Cc: [MandelmanStaff \(BOS\)](#); [ChanStaff \(BOS\)](#); [ChenStaff](#); [DorseyStaff \(BOS\)](#); [Fielder, Jackie \(BOS\)](#); [MahmoodStaff](#); [MelgarStaff \(BOS\)](#); [SauterStaff](#); [SherrillStaff](#); [Walton, Shamann \(BOS\)](#); [WongStaff \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: THD COMMENTS – File 260147, Proposition E Commission Streamlining Task Force Recommendations Regarding the Historic Preservation Commission
Date: Monday, March 16, 2026 1:15:47 PM
Attachments: [THD COMMENT LTR Streamlining BOS FINAL 3-15-26.pdf](#)

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Dear President Mandelman and Members of the Board of Supervisors,

On behalf of the Telegraph Hill Dwellers and its more than 500 members, we strongly SUPPORT retention of the Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) and its technical authorities in the City Charter, as empowered by the voters of San Francisco.

In 2008, Proposition J amended the Charter to establish the HPC and gave it “authority over the historic preservation-related decisions in the City.” Placed on the ballot by a unanimous 11-0 vote of the Board of Supervisors, it was approved by 56% of the voters.

Among its technical authorities, Proposition J requires that: “The Historic Preservation Commission shall approve, disapprove, or modify certificates of appropriateness for work to designated landmarks or within historic districts.” It further states that: “For projects that require multiple planning approvals, the Historic Preservation Commission must review and act on any Certificate of Appropriateness before any other planning approval or permit review.”

On January 30th, the Commission Streamlining Task Force submitted its final report, including making specific recommendations regarding the HPC. In accordance with previous THD comments, the Task Force recommends keeping the HPC, instead of eliminating it. We support this.

However, the Task Force also recommends “moving most of the HPC’s technical duties from the Charter to the Planning Code.” We oppose this. We believe that this would weaken the HPC’s authority, making key parts of their responsibilities (including certificates of appropriateness) more vulnerable to politically motivated revision. While the Charter can only be amended by the voters, the Planning Code can be changed by just a majority vote of the Board of Supervisors.

Also, currently, HPC members can only be removed For Cause. The Task Force recommends that HPC members become subject to removal At Will. This change, too, would weaken the HPC and threaten its independence. We oppose this.

*

*

*

We should NOT undermine this City’s historic preservation strategy. The HPC

and its technical authorities were established by a vote of the people. They have worked successfully for nearly two decades. They should not be undone by an appointed ad hoc task force.

RECOMMENDATION: We ask that the HPC and its technical authorities be retained within the City Charter, that member removal continue to be For Cause, and that draft implementing legislation memorializing Task Force recommendations be modified accordingly.

Sincerely,

Stan Hayes

Nancy Shanahan

Co-Chairs, Planning & Zoning

Committee

March 15, 2026

President Rafael Mandelman
Members of the Board of Supervisors
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, Room 250
San Francisco, CA 94102
(Via email: bos@sfgov.org)



RE: THD COMMENTS – File 260147, Proposition E Commission Streamlining Task Force Recommendations Regarding the Historic Preservation Commission

Dear President Mandelman and Members of the Board of Supervisors,

On behalf of the Telegraph Hill Dwellers and its more than 500 members, we strongly SUPPORT retention of the Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) and its technical authorities in the City Charter, as empowered by the voters of San Francisco.

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RECOMMENDATION: We ask that the HPC and its technical authorities be retained within the City Charter, that member removal continue to be For Cause, and that draft implementing legislation memorializing Task Force recommendations be modified accordingly.

Sincerely,

Stan Hayes

Nancy Shanahan

Co-Chairs, Planning & Zoning Committee

cc: Rafael Mandelman, President and Supervisor District 8 MandelmanStaff@sfgov.org
Connie Chan, Supervisor District 1 ChanStaff@sfgov.org
Chyanne Chen, Supervisor District 11 ChenStaff@sfgov.org
Matt Dorsey, Supervisor District 6 DorseyStaff@sfgov.org
Jackie Fielder, Supervisor District 9 Jackie.Fielder@sfgov.org
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Danny Sauter, Supervisor District 3 SauterStaff@sfgov.org
Stephen Sherrill, Supervisor District 2 SherrillStaff@sfgov.org
Shamann Walton, Supervisor District 10 Shamann.Walton@sfgov.org
Alan Wong, Supervisor District 4 WongStaff@sfgov.org

From: [Blueprint SF](#)
To: [Chan, Connie \(BOS\)](#); [Sherrill, Stephen \(BOS\)](#); [Sauter, Danny \(BOS\)](#); [Wong, Alan \(BOS\)](#); [Mahmood, Bilal \(BOS\)](#); [Dorsey, Matt \(BOS\)](#); [Melgar, Myrna \(BOS\)](#); [Mandelman, Rafael \(BOS\)](#); [Fielder, Jackie \(BOS\)](#); [Walton, Shamann \(BOS\)](#); [Chen, Chyanne \(BOS\)](#); [Board of Supervisors \(BOS\)](#); [Young, Victor \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Put Smart Commission Reform on the November 2026 Ballot.
Date: Sunday, March 15, 2026 3:38:34 PM

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.



Dear Members of the San Francisco Board of Supervisors,

I urge you to place the Commission Streamlining Task Force's Charter Amendment on the November 2026 ballot so San Francisco voters can decide on long-overdue government reforms.

San Francisco's commission system is bloated, confusing, and outdated. Public input is currently spread across 152 City commissions that often overlap, fail to coordinate, or do not meet at all. Nearly a quarter of commissions are inactive, yet remain on the books. At the same time, dozens of commissions are locked into the City Charter, making even modest updates costly and difficult.

This fragmented structure dilutes public participation and obscures accountability. Voters reasonably expect the Mayor to be responsible for managing City departments, yet many of those decisions are made by commissions most residents have never heard of and do not understand how to engage with.

In November 2024, voters recognized these problems and approved Proposition E, creating the Commission Streamlining Task Force to recommend solutions. After an extensive public process, including 21 public meetings and hundreds of public comments, the Task Force delivered a thoughtful, common-sense reform package.

These recommendations would streamline commissions into a smaller, more effective system; remove inactive and ineffective bodies; clarify roles and responsibilities; improve transparency; and make commissions easier for residents to understand and participate in while preserving appropriate oversight.

Residents deserve the opportunity to vote on these reforms.

I respectfully urge you to honor the will of voters and place the Commission Streamlining Task Force's Charter Amendment on the November 2026 ballot. Doing so will help ensure San Francisco's government is more accountable, transparent, and effective.

Thank you for your consideration.

Gretchen Koch

From: [North Market](#)
To: [Board of Supervisors \(BOS\)](#)
Cc: [Board of Supervisors \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Report changing of names for Ordinance 260147
Date: Sunday, March 15, 2026 3:55:55 PM

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

The Commission Streamlining Task Force's final report from January 2026 emphasizes efficiency through eliminations, consolidations, and modifications rather than widespread renaming of San Francisco's boards, commissions, and advisory bodies. However, it does propose standardizing naming conventions where applicable: advisory bodies should generally be called "councils," while decision-making bodies should be "boards" or "commissions." Exceptions are made for historical significance, branding, or legal reasons (e.g., Youth Commission and Sunshine Ordinance Task Force retain their names). Specific proposed name changes are limited, as most bodies (over 80) keep their current names even if restructured or relocated (e.g., to the Administrative Code for easier amendments).

Proposed Name Changes

Below is a summary of the explicit name changes recommended in the report. These are organized by policy area for clarity, based on the task force's groupings.

Policy Area	Current Name	Proposed New Name	Details
Public Health & Wellbeing (Homelessness sub-area)	Homelessness Oversight Commission	Homelessness Advisory Board	Combined with the Local Homeless Coordinating Board (which becomes a subcommittee); modified to advisory-only role and moved to Administrative Code.
Housing and Economic Development (Planning/Land Use sub-area)	Bayview Citizens Advisory Committee (Bayview CAC)	Bayview Citizens Advisory Council	Renamed to align with "council" convention for advisory bodies; structure modified.
City Employment and Benefits	Retiree Health Care Trust Fund Board and Retirement Board	Merged into a single unnamed entity (specific name not detailed; to be determined via ordinance)	Consolidation to reduce overlap; requires Board of Supervisors approval; structures modified with term limits and at-will removals.

Bodies Retaining Names

The vast majority of the 87 proposed retained bodies (after eliminations and consolidations) keep their existing names, with changes focused on powers, sizes, terms, or locations instead. Examples include:

- **Arts & Culture:** Arts Commission, Asian Art Commission, Film Commission, Fine Arts Museums Board of Trustees, Library Commission, War Memorial Board of Trustees, Southeast Community Facility Commission.
- **Regulation & Appeals:** Board of Appeals, Building Inspection Commission, Code Advisory Committee, Relocation Appeals Board, Assessment Appeals Board.
- **Planning & Finance:** Capital Planning Committee, Citizens' General Obligation Bond Oversight Committee, Enhanced Infrastructure Financing District Public Financing Authority No. 1, Board of Directors of the San Francisco Downtown Revitalization and Economic Recovery Financing District.
- **Health & Welfare:** Health Commission, Airport Commission, Cannabis Oversight Committee, Commission on Animal Control and Welfare, Behavioral Health Commission (potential future rename noted but not required), Health Service Board.
- **Governance & Elections:** Entertainment Commission, Small Business Commission, Ballot Simplification Committee, Elections Commission, Elections Task Force, Refuse Rate Board, State Legislation Committee, Sweatfree Procurement Advisory Group.
- **Social Services:** Local Homeless Coordinating Board (as subcommittee), Children and Families First Commission, Children, Youth, and Their Families Oversight and Advisory Committee, Civil Service Commission, Human Rights Commission, Commission on the Status of Women, Immigrant Rights Commission, LGBTQI+ Advisory Committee, Inclusionary Housing Technical Advisory Committee, SOMA Community Stabilization Fund Community Advisory Committee.
- **Other:** Youth Commission, Sunshine Ordinance Task Force, Veterans' Affairs Commission, Human Services Commission.

These recommendations are pending review by the Board of Supervisors (hearing scheduled for March 17, 2026) and potential voter approval for Charter amendments in November 2026. No other explicit renames were proposed beyond the ones listed.

Concern,

Former Board Members of North of Market Planning Coalition

From: [Norma Gallegos](#)
To: [Board of Supervisors \(BOS\)](#)
Cc: [DOSW, DOSW \(WOM\)](#); [Calvillo, Angela \(BOS\)](#); [Andary, Sophia \(HRC\)](#)
Subject: Support for the Commission on the Status of Women
Date: Monday, March 16, 2026 9:59:41 AM

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Subject: Support for the Commission on the Status of Women
To: Board.of.Supervisors@sfgov.org
CC: dosw@sfgov.org; Angela.calvillo@sfgov.org; sophia.andary@sfgov.org

Dear Members of the San Francisco Board of Supervisors,

I am born and raised and still hear San Franciscan from the Mission, Excelsior and Glen Park districts. I am a longtime member of National Radical Women. I am writing to urge you to protect the San Francisco Commission on the Status of Women and vote NO on the proposed changes from the Commission Streamlining Task Force.

Established in 1975 after years of community advocacy and a vote by the Board of Supervisors, the Commission on the Status of Women remains the only city body specifically tasked with advancing gender equity in San Francisco. It plays a critical role in reviewing city policies and budgets and holding government accountable.

The Commission also provides an important public forum where community members can speak, be heard, and participate in decisions that affect their lives. Despite its small size, it is one of the most diverse bodies in city government, bringing essential lived experience and expertise to its work.

Removing the Commission's chartered independence or weakening its governance authority would compromise its ability to provide meaningful oversight and accountability. This includes ensuring the Commissioner has a role in decisions related to hiring and firing the department head and in matters concerning the department's budget, as well as protecting the Commissioner from removal by the Mayor without cause.

I respectfully urge you to vote down the proposed changes and maintain the Commission on the Status of Women as a chartered, independent body with its full powers and responsibilities intact.

San Francisco needs strong, independent institutions that ensure women, girls, and nonbinary people are represented and heard in city decision-making.

Thank you for your time and for protecting accountability in our local government.

Sincerely,

Norma M. Gallegos

Glen Park, current resident and National Radical Women member

Norma

"This sketch of the course of my studies in the domain of political economy is intended merely to show that my views – no matter how they may be judged and how little they conform to the interested prejudices of the ruling classes – are the outcome of conscientious research carried on over many years. At the entrance to science, as at the entrance to hell, the demand must be made:

*Qui si convien lasciare ogni sospetto
Ogni viltà convien che qui sia morta.*

[From Dante, Divina Commedia:
Here must all distrust be left;
All cowardice must here be dead.]"

Karl Marx

London, January 1859

From: [Courtney Damkroger](#)
To: [Board of Supervisors \(BOS\)](#)
Cc: [Carroll, John \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: 3/17/26 Re: File 260147: Proposition E Commission Streamlining Task Force Recommendations
Date: Sunday, March 15, 2026 10:20:43 AM
Attachments: [2026 3 17 CSTF HPC.docx](#)

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Please find attached and below comments on this item. Thank you.

March 15, 2026

President Rafael Mandelman
Members of the Board of Supervisors
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, Room 250
San Francisco, CA 94102

Regarding File 260147: Proposition E Commission Streamlining Task Force Recommendations, Final Report, and Charter Amendment

Dear President Mandelman and Members of the Board of Supervisors:

Evaluation of the Commission Streamlining Task Force recommendations is a substantial and complex undertaking. While a number of recommendations from the Task Force may be worthy, many have overshot their target. Two recommendations proposed for the Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) are particularly misguided.

Because Proposition J passed in 2008, creating our Historic Preservation Commission, San Francisco's historic preservation program was professionalized and met the Department of the Interior's standards for Certified Local Government (CLG) status. This meant that San Francisco's program was on par with New York, Los Angeles, and Seattle. San Francisco joined a larger network of more than 2,000 cities nationwide operating in an established and consistent manner to protect historic and cultural resources in tandem with development. Cities participating in the program and with access to its benefits have commissions comprised of experts in their fields and operate with ordinances that share time and legally tested provisions. Unfortunately, two Task Force recommendations undermine San Francisco's historic preservation program as noted below.

To retain the city's professional standing, member expertise should remain a requirement and not changed to desirable Among the requirements for a certified local historic

preservation program are specific professional qualifications for commission members. Meeting these qualifications is not an issue for San Francisco. Specific areas of expertise are required but the expertise categories provide ample flexibility in meeting the standards. Given our size and diversity, San Francisco does not want for preservation architects, preservation planners, architectural historians, and the like.

Retaining the commission's survey, designation, project review and oversight responsibilities in the City Charter is the surest way to maintain an independent and objective historic preservation program rather than, as proposed by the Task Force, moving them to the Planning or Administrative Code. Once these duties have been removed from the City Charter, they are subject to political interference.

Retention of commissioner expertise as well as its duties under the City Charter will reinforce the nearly 60 years of effort to ensure that San Francisco is on par with cities of our profile and caliber.

Finally, I am opposed to At Will rather than For Cause removal of commissioners. This Task Force recommendation puts commission independence at risk.

Sincerely,

Courtney Damkroger

Former Vice President of the Historic Preservation Commission
Former member of the Landmarks Preservation Advisory Board
Former Lecturer San Jose State University, Planning Department, Historic Preservation Program
Former Historic Preservation Officer, City of San Jose
Former Assistant Regional Director of the National Trust for Historic Preservation

March 15, 2026

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Former Lecturer San Jose State University, Planning Department, Historic Preservation Program
Former Historic Preservation Officer, City of San Jose
Former Assistant Regional Director of the National Trust for Historic Preservation

From: [Joyce Y](#)
To: [Board of Supervisors \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Commission on Status of Women
Date: Saturday, March 14, 2026 9:29:00 PM

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Dear Supervisors,

I am an SF resident since 1994. I love the City and a large part of that is the trust that I and my fellow residents have in how the City upholds the inclusive, representational, and progressive values that make it the best city to be in, for so many of us. Our voices are heard, and we speak out. We are the plurality and diversity that make San Francisco great.

I attended last Wednesday's hearing at the Women's Building with friends. My friend spoke, as did many others, about our concerns that the Board may consider diminishing the strength of a number of actively contributing chartered commissions, including the Commission on the Status of Women. The "pro" arguments seemed to focus on combatting a greater evil (Prop D) and reducing the commissions that were inactive. Ed Harrington was articulate on these points.

Well, I am all for avoiding greater evils, and de-cluttering City departments, but the degree of the latter seems to have gotten a bit extremely out of hand in the hands of the Task Force, well-meaning as its work is purported to be. We in the audience questioned whether a drastic diminishment of the role of active commissions wouldn't result in a net loss of democratic oversight and representation in our city.

Now, the Board may unwittingly be throwing out the baby with the bathwater, by voting for the diminishing of active, proven-track-record commissions, along with others that, it is true, may be less active, or even inactive. Where is the sense in overpruning the branches of government, if healthy, productive branches are excessively trimmed?

Doing so will inevitably result in reducing the ability to continue meaningful contributions by the commissions that do have a proven track record of doing the work — gathering vital data on constituent needs and issues, making sure under-represented and under-protected SF resident populations are not forgotten, or their needs generalized when they are specific needs, and doing their part to balance the picture of who we San Franciscans are, and what we need.

There was a reason that the Commission on the Status of Women was created in 1979. It was thoughtfully developed and has operated for over 45 years. Its reports have led to awareness and advocacy, and real change to protect women. It has proven its value over the decades.

One example of this need to focus specifically on women's issues is personal to me. I work at the UCSF Trauma Recovery Center. Every year we serve hundreds of crime victims through our local- and state-funded services, and these referrals to the TRC commonly come through the General Hospital's emergency department, including the Rape Treatment Center.

Fact: Sexual assault is our most common type referral from ZSFGH. Two thirds of our clients are women, and sexual assault (by partners, dates, strangers) is the most common crime they have suffered.

Moreover, two thirds of these sexual assaults on female San Franciscans are drug facilitated sexual assaults (DFSAs) often occurring at bars. Most victimized women do not press charges. This means that male perpetrators continue to victimize women, and so it is not an exaggeration to say that San Francisco businesses (bars) are scenes where the crime is initiated.

Since the TRC receives over 300 referrals a year from the RTC at ZSFGH, as I write this email, on a Saturday night,

it is likely that at least 1 sexual assault has occurred today, that will go unreported in the police data.

You who are reading this may not be aware of this, since the police report data will not show it. So, how would you otherwise be aware of this ongoing violence against women living in SF, who are suffering traumas that will impact them for the rest of their lives?

These women are SF constituents. Their victimization affects them, their families, friends, partners, their work and personal lives.

Women deserve a commission that is able to bring data to light on crucial needs such as violence against us. My workplace serves these women and many other SF residents to help them heal from acute trauma inflicted by violence of all kinds. And yes, our current funding is facing drastic cuts, but we will continue to serve these victimized San Franciscans to the extent we can. We will do this work until we can't anymore, yet the cycle of women's victimization will doubtless continue without awareness and policy.

The City's chartered commission that focuses on women's needs is not superfluous. It is not "clutter" to be removed or diminished in its role in advocacy, accountability, and policy making. It does not deserve to be thrown into a more general, lesser, diluted pool of merely advisory commissions. It does not merit being made more toothless, but rather the opposite.

So my two questions to you as the Board, as our elected representatives, are:

Do you believe, in your tenure as supervisors, that you've witnessed evidence that the foundation 45 years ago for creating the chartered Commission on the Status of Women, has since proven no longer relevant, valid, or needed? Are women no longer worthy of having specific needs brought to light, are all our needs already taken into account and addressed, such as the incidence rate of sexual assault against women in SF?

If you vote in the Task Force's recommendations, do you truly believe the "Administrative Code" would be able to focus on and produce any meaningful reports of women constituents' needs?

Answering these questions honestly should show that the City still needs the Commission on the Status of Women to do its role, as it has been doing, undiluted in weight and responsibility, since 1979. Decluttering is fine, but it behooves the cleaner-uppers on the Task Force to know the vastly differing values of decluttering versus keeping what is not clutter. A Type 1 error is more serious than a Type 2 error, as I learned in my basic statistics courses. In this analogy, a Type 2 error is tolerating some existing inefficiency (deadwood commissions if indeed you judge them so), but that embodies less harm than a Type 1 error, which is failing to identify and diagnose what is crucially needed to be identified and addressed (by lopping off the entities that work to accomplish that).

Thank you for your consideration of what this letter conveys.

Sincerely,
Joyce Ycasas

From: [Patrick Monette-Shaw via ActionNetwork.org](#)
To: [Board of Supervisors \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: San Francisco Board of Supervisors, Protect San Francisco's Open Government During Board and Commission Reform
Date: Saturday, March 14, 2026 9:26:03 PM
Attachments: [save-san-francisco-participatory-governance_signatures_202603150425.pdf](#)

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

San Francisco Board of Supervisors,

30 people have signed a petition on Action Network telling you to Protect San Francisco's Open Government During Board and Commission Reform.

Here is the petition they signed:

The Board of Supervisors needs to take meaningful action by rejecting many of the recommendations for board and commission reform the Commission Streamlining Task Force submitted in its "Final Report" now before the Board for your consideration.

Ed Harrington, who led the "Prop. E" campaign for former Board President Aaron Peskin and the Board of Supervisors, said back in 2024 that Prop. D was the "wrong way" to reform because the public deserves an open process to discuss commission reform. He emphasized the importance of maintaining transparency and openness in city government by allowing citizen oversight. Harrington said then, " 'Prop. D' takes a meat ax to our city government."

"Prop. D" was rejected by a 13% margin of voters, when 56.7% of voters (207,604) voted "Hell No" on their ballots, prevailing 56.7% to 43.3%. By contrast, "Prop. E" passed by a 6% margin of voters, when 192,540 San Franciscans voted "Yes" to pass "Prop. E" by 53% to 47%.

San Francisco voters did so because we wanted to preserve participatory governance of our democracy in San Francisco, to protect "San Francisco Values." We did not want, and did NOT vote for, an Elon Musk "chainsaw" approach taken to radically overhaul and alter our local participatory boards and commissions structures in the name of "efficiency."

Streamlining Task Force Chair Harrington had cautioned the Task Force on June 4 against dramatically altering the City's commission structure, stating that " 'Proposition E' was about streamlining, not radically overhauling public governance," but by the end of the Task Force's decision-making deliberations on January 28, 2026 — that's what the Task Force ultimately did. They recommended radical changes, and took the same meat ax to our City government.

As soon as Harrington was appointed Chairperson of the “Commission Streamlining Task Force” that “Prop. E” created, he turned around and swung that meat ax against the boards and commissions, anyway, handing us “Prop. D”-style reforms, rather than “Prop. E”-style nuanced reform.

Had the Task Force stopped at just eliminating the 37 inactive bodies it had identified, that would have been enough. But the Task Force waded much deeper, and in many decisions appear to have gone way beyond its legislated remit.

The Task Force recommended that of the 86 bodies being kept:

- 18 bodies be moved from the City Charter to the Administrative Code.
- 25 bodies have their Member Qualifications changed or eliminated, or made merely “desirable.” This is a major deal breaker.
- 26 bodies have their Department Head hiring and firing authorities removed.
- 24 bodies be changed from “For-Cause” to “At-Will” member removal

In addition, budget and contract authority of some boards and commission’s over their respective City Departments is being recommended for removal or being drastically changed.

During it’s year-long meetings, the Task Force took testimony from 572 public speakers during 18 of its meetings, and received written letters and petition signatures from 824 San Franciscans, almost all of which opposed preliminary decisions the Streamlining Task Force was making as they went along, and have been included in its “Final Report” submitted to the Board of Supervisors.

That combined opposition from 1,396 San Franciscans to the Task Force essentially fell on deaf ears.

Rather than “Prop. E”-style reforms voters expected, the “Prop. E” Streamlining Task Force incorporated “Prop. D”-inspired recommendations in its “Final Report” submitted to the Board of Supervisors!

At a minimum, we ask that the Board of Supervisors carefully “duplicate” both the Proposed Charter Amendment and initial proposed Ordinance for your review. And we ask that you schedule your own round of hearings to reconsider recommendations in the duplicated files that were made by this five-member Task Force of appointed members who are not held accountable to San Franciscans, or to San Francisco’s voters. We ask that the Board of Supervisors continue to take and consider additional public testimony before approving an Ordinance or placing the proposed ballot measure on the November 2026 ballot.

After all, during a Town Hall event on March 11, 2026 sponsored by “Real Reform SF,” and the League of Women Voters SF, Streamlining Chairperson Ed

Harrington stated that now that the Streamlining Task Force's "Final Report" and associated legislation is now under consideration by the Board of Supervisors, topics for possible changes the Supervisors can consider, but aren't limited to, include: the Commission on the Status of Women, Human Rights Commission, Entertainment Commission, Youth Commission, and various Children's, Seniors, and Homeless Commissions. Harrington added the Supervisors could also make changes to the Task Force's recommendations concerning the Mayoral authority to remove Commissioners "At Will," Mayoral authority to hire and fire City Department Heads, and Police Department discipline of police officers.

In reality, the Board of Supervisors can amend, or reject, any or all of the 800-plus recommendations the Task Force submitted, including, for example, the recommendation regarding Sunshine Task Force nominating-body authority; restoring seat-level requirements for all bodies that have them as required qualifications, not "desirable" qualifications; and restoring the Ethics Commission's full authority to place Ballot Measures on the ballot without requiring Board of Supervisors approval.

Board of Supervisors Rule §3.22, the "30-Day Rule" specifically states that measures introduced to the Board of Supervisors that would create or revise major City policy, the committee to which the measure is assigned shall not consider the measure until at least 30 days after the day of introduction of the legislation. That Rule is meant to ensure that major policy legislation is not rushed, allowing time for public review, committee scrutiny, and analysis before a hearing. It prevents immediate action on significant City policies by mandating a 30-day waiting period.

We expect the Board of Supervisors to carefully review, and reject, many of the Task Force's recommendations — or face widespread voter rejection of any Board and Commission Charter Amendments placed on the November 2026 ballot!

Failure by the Board of Supervisors to reject many of the Streamlining Task Force's recommendations will be sufficient grounds to oppose your proposed Charter amendment. We expect robust Board of Supervisors revisions to the Streamlining Task Force's recommendations and proposed Charter Amendment be heard in detailed Rules Committee public hearings!

You can view each petition signer and the comments they left you in the attached PDF.

Thank you,

Patrick Monette-Shaw

Action Network



Sent via Action Network, a free online toolset anyone can use to organize. [Click here to sign up](#) and get started building an email list and creating online actions today.

Action Network is an open platform that empowers individuals and groups to organize for progressive causes. We encourage responsible activism, and do not support using the platform to take unlawful or other improper action. We do not control or endorse the conduct of users and make no representations of any kind about them.

You can unsubscribe or update your email address or change your name and address by [changing your subscription preferences here](#).

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Thank you,

Patrick Monette-Shaw

-
1. **Patrick Monette-Shaw** (*ZIP code: 94109-6030*)
 2. **Michael Rodevich** (*ZIP code: 94805*)
 3. **barbara Lopez** (*ZIP code: 94110*)
 4. **Karen Fishkin** (*ZIP code: 94117*)
 5. **AJ cho** (*ZIP code: 94579*)
 6. **Mara Math** (*ZIP code: 94131*)
Stop the assaults on participatory democracy.
 7. **Sylvia Lynch** (*ZIP code: 94014-2242*)
 8. **Douglas Comstock** (*ZIP code: 94117*)
 9. **Ralph Lane** (*ZIP code: 94122*)
Democracy over autocracy
 10. **Rich Wada** (*ZIP code: 94116*)
Stop the power grab and let citizen democracy continue in San Francisco.
 11. **Julie Pitta** (*ZIP code: 94121*)
 12. **Esther Marks** (*ZIP code: 94117*)
 13. **Regina Sneed** (*ZIP code: 94109*)

14. CARYL ITO (*ZIP code: 94112*)

15. Richard Hack (*ZIP code: 94102*)

The public deserves an open process to discuss commission reform, especially since Prop E was passed by a 53-47 percent majority.

16. Peter Olney (*ZIP code: 94116*)

17. Vera Genkin (*ZIP code: 94116*)

Do NOT violate the "30-Day Rule" to rush through commission reform on behalf of the Mayor. The public deserves an open process to discuss commission reform. The importance of maintaining transparency and openness in city government by allowing citizen oversight cannot be overstated!

18. Barry Hermanson (*ZIP code: 94116*)

19. Herbert Mintz (*ZIP code: 94116*)

20. Nicole Smith (*ZIP code: 94110*)

21. Valielza Huynh-O'Keefe (*ZIP code: 94158*)

22. Jamilah Din (*ZIP code: 94116*)

23. LISA ARJES (*ZIP code: 94122*)

24. Martin Horwitz (*ZIP code: 94122*)

25. Mark Pothier (*ZIP code: 94121*)

26. judith zimrin (*ZIP code: 94133*)

27. Pattie Tamura (*ZIP code: 94114*)

Minor change useful - major change is just another power grab!

28. Todd Snyder (*ZIP code: 94115*)

From: [A. Sparks](#)
To: [Mandelman, Rafael \(BOS\)](#); [Board of Supervisors \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Please Protect the Commission on the Status of Women
Date: Thursday, March 12, 2026 4:11:50 PM

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Dear Supervisor Mandelman and Members of the Board of Supervisors,

I'm writing to urge the Board to protect the San Francisco Commission on the Status of Women and to vote against the proposal to remove it from the City Charter.

Raf, I know you've long been a champion for women's rights and for LGBTQ women in particular, which is part of why I'm reaching out directly. San Francisco has always prided itself on being a place where diverse communities have a voice in civic life, but the reality is that many queer and trans women and single mothers/head of households have already been pushed out of the city or have become increasingly invisible in local politics. Maintaining a strong, independent Commission on the Status of Women helps ensure that our experiences and perspectives continue to be seen, heard, and considered in city decision-making.

For many of us, the Commission is also one of the most accessible entry points into local government. It is a place where community members can show up, speak openly, and participate in conversations about policies that affect their lives. If San Francisco wants residents to remain civically engaged and invested in the future of this city, people need to feel that their voices matter and that there are real avenues for participation.

I'm also concerned about the broader governance implications of the proposed changes. San Francisco's political leadership remains disproportionately male. While we have made progress, many of the highest levels of power in the city have historically been dominated by men. For that reason, I believe it is important that the Commission maintain meaningful independence and governance authority, including protections that prevent commissioners from being appointed or removed solely at the discretion of the Mayor. The Commission's structure exists to ensure that decisions affecting women are not shaped exclusively by the priorities of a single office.

San Francisco has long tried to set an example for the rest of the country when it comes to democratic participation, progressive policy, and community-driven leadership. Preserving the Commission on the Status of Women as a chartered, independent body is consistent with that legacy.

As a longtime SF resident and actively engaged community member in District 8, I would be genuinely disappointed to see the Commission removed from the Charter, and I hope you will help ensure that it remains intact with its authority preserved.

Thank you for your consideration and for your continued leadership on behalf of San Franciscans.

Sincerely,

Sparks

A. Sparks ([she/they](#))
Executive Director, Masto Foundation
Cell: 415.298.7833
www.mastofoundation.org

From: [Blueprint SF](#)
To: [Chan, Connie \(BOS\)](#); [Sherrill, Stephen \(BOS\)](#); [Sauter, Danny \(BOS\)](#); [Wong, Alan \(BOS\)](#); [Mahmood, Bilal \(BOS\)](#); [Dorsey, Matt \(BOS\)](#); [Melgar, Myrna \(BOS\)](#); [Mandelman, Rafael \(BOS\)](#); [Fielder, Jackie \(BOS\)](#); [Walton, Shamann \(BOS\)](#); [Chen, Chyanne \(BOS\)](#); [Board of Supervisors \(BOS\)](#); [Young, Victor \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Put Smart Commission Reform on the November 2026 Ballot.
Date: Thursday, March 12, 2026 4:50:19 PM

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.



Dear Members of the San Francisco Board of Supervisors,

I urge you to place the Commission Streamlining Task Force's Charter Amendment on the November 2026 ballot so San Francisco voters can decide on long-overdue government reforms.

San Francisco's commission system is bloated, confusing, and outdated. Public input is currently spread across 152 City commissions that often overlap, fail to coordinate, or do not meet at all. Nearly a quarter of commissions are inactive, yet remain on the books. At the same time, dozens of commissions are locked into the City Charter, making even modest updates costly and difficult.

This fragmented structure dilutes public participation and obscures accountability. Voters reasonably expect the Mayor to be responsible for managing City departments, yet many of those decisions are made by commissions most residents have never heard of and do not understand how to engage with.

In November 2024, voters recognized these problems and approved Proposition E, creating the Commission Streamlining Task Force to recommend solutions. After an extensive public process, including 21 public meetings and hundreds of public comments, the Task Force delivered a thoughtful, common-sense reform package.

These recommendations would streamline commissions into a smaller, more effective system; remove inactive and ineffective bodies; clarify roles and responsibilities; improve transparency; and make commissions easier for residents to understand and participate in while preserving appropriate oversight.

Residents deserve the opportunity to vote on these reforms.

I respectfully urge you to honor the will of voters and place the Commission Streamlining Task Force's Charter Amendment on the November 2026 ballot. Doing so will help ensure San Francisco's government is more accountable, transparent, and effective.

Thank you for your consideration.

Marianne Oest

From: [Blueprint SF](#)
To: [Chan, Connie \(BOS\)](#); [Sherrill, Stephen \(BOS\)](#); [Sauter, Danny \(BOS\)](#); [Wong, Alan \(BOS\)](#); [Mahmood, Bilal \(BOS\)](#); [Dorsey, Matt \(BOS\)](#); [Melgar, Myrna \(BOS\)](#); [Mandelman, Rafael \(BOS\)](#); [Fielder, Jackie \(BOS\)](#); [Walton, Shamann \(BOS\)](#); [Chen, Chyanne \(BOS\)](#); [Board of Supervisors \(BOS\)](#); [Young, Victor \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Put Smart Commission Reform on the November 2026 Ballot.
Date: Thursday, March 12, 2026 9:00:50 PM

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Dear Members of the San Francisco Board of Supervisors,

I urge you to place the Commission Streamlining Task Force's Charter Amendment on the November 2026 ballot so San Francisco voters can decide on long-overdue government reforms.

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Thank you for your consideration.

Marianne Rothe

From: [Blueprint SF](#)
To: [Chan, Connie \(BOS\)](#); [Sherrill, Stephen \(BOS\)](#); [Sauter, Danny \(BOS\)](#); [Wong, Alan \(BOS\)](#); [Mahmood, Bilal \(BOS\)](#); [Dorsey, Matt \(BOS\)](#); [Melgar, Myrna \(BOS\)](#); [Mandelman, Rafael \(BOS\)](#); [Fielder, Jackie \(BOS\)](#); [Walton, Shamann \(BOS\)](#); [Chen, Chyanne \(BOS\)](#); [Board of Supervisors \(BOS\)](#); [Young, Victor \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Put Smart Commission Reform on the November 2026 Ballot.
Date: Thursday, March 12, 2026 9:32:54 PM

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.



Dear Members of the San Francisco Board of Supervisors,

I urge you to place the Commission Streamlining Task Force's Charter Amendment on the November 2026 ballot so San Francisco voters can decide on long-overdue government reforms.

San Francisco's commission system is bloated, confusing, and outdated. Public input is currently spread across 152 City commissions that often overlap, fail to coordinate, or do not meet at all. Nearly a quarter of commissions are inactive, yet remain on the books. At the same time, dozens of commissions are locked into the City Charter, making even modest updates costly and difficult.

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Thank you for your consideration.

Marinell Jochnowitz

From: [Blueprint SF](#)
To: [Chan, Connie \(BOS\)](#); [Sherrill, Stephen \(BOS\)](#); [Sauter, Danny \(BOS\)](#); [Wong, Alan \(BOS\)](#); [Mahmood, Bilal \(BOS\)](#); [Dorsey, Matt \(BOS\)](#); [Melgar, Myrna \(BOS\)](#); [Mandelman, Rafael \(BOS\)](#); [Fielder, Jackie \(BOS\)](#); [Walton, Shamann \(BOS\)](#); [Chen, Chyanne \(BOS\)](#); [Board of Supervisors \(BOS\)](#); [Young, Victor \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Put Smart Commission Reform on the November 2026 Ballot.
Date: Thursday, March 12, 2026 9:51:02 PM

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.



Dear Members of the San Francisco Board of Supervisors,

I urge you to place the Commission Streamlining Task Force's Charter Amendment on the November 2026 ballot so San Francisco voters can decide on long-overdue government reforms.

San Francisco's commission system is bloated, confusing, and outdated. Public input is currently spread across 152 City commissions that often overlap, fail to coordinate, or do not meet at all. Nearly a quarter of commissions are inactive, yet remain on the books. At the same time, dozens of commissions are locked into the City Charter, making even modest updates costly and difficult.

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Residents deserve the opportunity to vote on these reforms.

I respectfully urge you to honor the will of voters and place the Commission Streamlining Task Force's Charter Amendment on the November 2026 ballot. Doing so will help ensure San Francisco's government is more accountable, transparent, and effective.

Thank you for your consideration.

James Cox

From: [Blueprint SF](#)
To: [Chan, Connie \(BOS\)](#); [Sherrill, Stephen \(BOS\)](#); [Sauter, Danny \(BOS\)](#); [Wong, Alan \(BOS\)](#); [Mahmood, Bilal \(BOS\)](#); [Dorsey, Matt \(BOS\)](#); [Melgar, Myrna \(BOS\)](#); [Mandelman, Rafael \(BOS\)](#); [Fielder, Jackie \(BOS\)](#); [Walton, Shamann \(BOS\)](#); [Chen, Chyanne \(BOS\)](#); [Board of Supervisors \(BOS\)](#); [Young, Victor \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Put Smart Commission Reform on the November 2026 Ballot.
Date: Thursday, March 12, 2026 11:57:31 PM

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.



Dear Members of the San Francisco Board of Supervisors,

I urge you to place the Commission Streamlining Task Force's Charter Amendment on the November 2026 ballot so San Francisco voters can decide on long-overdue government reforms.

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Residents deserve the opportunity to vote on these reforms.

I respectfully urge you to honor the will of voters and place the Commission Streamlining Task Force's Charter Amendment on the November 2026 ballot. Doing so will help ensure San Francisco's government is more accountable, transparent, and effective.

Thank you for your consideration.

Griffin Lee

From: [Blueprint SF](#)
To: [Chan, Connie \(BOS\)](#); [Sherrill, Stephen \(BOS\)](#); [Sauter, Danny \(BOS\)](#); [Wong, Alan \(BOS\)](#); [Mahmood, Bilal \(BOS\)](#); [Dorsey, Matt \(BOS\)](#); [Melgar, Myrna \(BOS\)](#); [Mandelman, Rafael \(BOS\)](#); [Fielder, Jackie \(BOS\)](#); [Walton, Shamann \(BOS\)](#); [Chen, Chyanne \(BOS\)](#); [Board of Supervisors \(BOS\)](#); [Young, Victor \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Put Smart Commission Reform on the November 2026 Ballot.
Date: Friday, March 13, 2026 5:28:33 AM

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.



Dear Members of the San Francisco Board of Supervisors,

I urge you to place the Commission Streamlining Task Force's Charter Amendment on the November 2026 ballot so San Francisco voters can decide on long-overdue government reforms.

San Francisco's commission system is bloated, confusing, and outdated. Public input is currently spread across 152 City commissions that often overlap, fail to coordinate, or do not meet at all. Nearly a quarter of commissions are inactive, yet remain on the books. At the same time, dozens of commissions are locked into the City Charter, making even modest updates costly and difficult.

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Residents deserve the opportunity to vote on these reforms.

I respectfully urge you to honor the will of voters and place the Commission Streamlining Task Force's Charter Amendment on the November 2026 ballot. Doing so will help ensure San Francisco's government is more accountable, transparent, and effective.

Thank you for your consideration.

John Carver

From: [Chantal Hildebrand](#)
To: [Board of Supervisors \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: File #260147 - Hearing - Proposition E Commission Streamlining Task Force Recommendations, Final Report, and Charter Amendment
Date: Friday, March 13, 2026 10:29:38 AM

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Dear Members of the San Francisco Board of Supervisors,

I'm writing on behalf of Alliance for Girls to urge you to protect the San Francisco Commission on the Status of Women and vote NO on the proposed changes from the Commission Streamlining Task Force.

Established in 1975 after years of community advocacy and a vote by the Board of Supervisors, the Commission on the Status of Women remains the only city body specifically tasked with advancing gender equity in San Francisco. It plays a critical role in reviewing city policies and budgets and holding the government accountable.

The Commission also provides an important public forum where community members can speak, be heard, and participate in decisions that affect their lives. Despite its small size, it is one of the most diverse bodies in city government, bringing essential lived experience and expertise to its work.

Removing the Commission's chartered independence or weakening its governance authority would compromise its ability to provide meaningful oversight and accountability. This includes ensuring the Commission has a role in decisions related to hiring and firing the department head, in matters concerning the department's budget, and in protecting Commissioners from removal by the Mayor without cause.

I respectfully urge you to vote down the proposed changes and maintain the Commission on the Status of Women as a chartered, independent body with its full powers and responsibilities intact.

San Francisco needs strong, independent institutions that ensure women, girls, and nonbinary people are represented and heard in city decision-making.

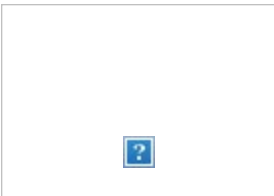
Thank you for your time and for ensuring accountability in San Francisco's local government.

Sincerely,

Chantal Hildebrand

--

Chantal Hildebrand



she/her

Executive Director

chantal@alliance4girls.org

alliance4girls.org



**“Girls” refers to gender expansive youth (cis girls, trans girls, non-binary youth, gender non-conforming youth, gender queer youth and any girl-identified youth).*

How are nonprofits *really* doing right now? Find out in Alliance for Girls' 2025 report, [The Political Impact on Girl & Gender-Expansive Youth-Serving Organizations](#), and learn how to support organizations and the youth they serve in this critical moment.

I acknowledge the land that I am on is stolen and unceded land of the [Lisjan Ohlone](#) people. I pay my respects to all First Nations people; past, present and those of the future. Support repatriation, returning Indigenous land to Indigenous people, [here](#).

From: [Nora Roman](#)
To: [Board of Supervisors \(BOS\)](#); [DOSW, DOSW \(WOM\)](#); [Calvillo, Angela \(BOS\)](#); [Andary, Sophia \(HRC\)](#)
Subject: Support for the Commission on the Status of Women
Date: Friday, March 13, 2026 1:41:08 PM

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Dear Members of the San Francisco Board of Supervisors,

I am writing to urge you to protect the San Francisco Commission on the Status of Women and vote NO on the proposed changes from the Commission Streamlining Task Force.

I am a 75 year old retired RN from SFGH, who also worked for a community organization at the Women's Building in the 1980s. I have raised 3 children who attended SFUSD schools, and I have been an active advocating for city policies that benefit our community since I moved to SF in 1977.

The Commission was established in 1975 after years of community advocacy and a vote by the Board of Supervisors. The Commission on the Status of Women remains the only city body specifically tasked with advancing gender equity in San Francisco. It plays a critical role in reviewing city policies and budgets and holding government accountable.

The Commission also provides an important public forum where community members can speak, be heard, and participate in decisions that affect their lives. Despite its small size, it is one of the most diverse bodies in city government, bringing essential lived experience and expertise to its work.

Removing the Commission's chartered independence or weakening its governance authority would compromise its ability to provide meaningful oversight and accountability. This includes ensuring the Commissioner has a role in decisions related to hiring and firing the department head and in matters concerning the department's budget, as well as protecting the Commissioner from removal by the Mayor without cause.

I respectfully urge you to vote down the proposed changes and maintain the Commission on the Status of Women as a chartered, independent body with its full powers and responsibilities intact.

San Francisco needs strong, independent institutions that ensure women, girls, and nonbinary people are represented and heard in city decision-making.

The current attempts to decrease both the number and the powers of Commissions is a step backwards from the democracy that San Franciscans cherish. Efficiency in government is not nearly as important as the people of

our city having a voice in what our elected officials do. Please do not take away our right to input and control. This would be a step toward autocratic government, and just as we don't want this at the federal level, we do not want it locally either.

Thank you for your time and for protecting accountability in our local government.

Please do the right thing and reject any attempts to eliminate or decrease the voice of this Commission.

Thank you,

Nora Roman, RN

From: [William Ortiz-Cartagena](#)
To: [Board of Supervisors \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: 03/17/2025 Item 15. Small Business Commission Proposition E Commission Streamlining
Date: Friday, March 13, 2026 6:44:50 PM

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Dear Members of the Board of Supervisors

I am writing to express my serious concern regarding the recommendations to restructure the San Francisco Small Business Commission (SBC). While I understand the goal of improving efficiency within City government, the proposed changes would ultimately weaken small business representation, reduce institutional stability, and undermine public trust in the City's commitment to supporting neighborhood businesses.

The recommendation to remove the SBC from the City Charter and instead place it within the Administrative Code—subject to an automatic sunset every three years—creates unnecessary instability for the very businesses the Commission was created to support. The Small Business Commission has long served as a consistent advocate for small business owners, providing institutional memory, policy continuity, and a direct channel for small business voices to be heard in City decision-making. Introducing a sunset provision and weakening the Commission's structural protections would effectively make commissioners serve at the will of shifting political priorities. That dynamic would leave commissioners vulnerable to political pressure and undermine our ability to deliberate, vote, and make recommendations independently without concern that doing so could jeopardize our positions. It would also create a situation where the Commission itself could be subject to political leverage every few years simply to ensure its continued existence.

I am also deeply concerned by proposals that would reduce the Commission's oversight authority, including removing its role in the hiring of the Department head and shifting decisions such as Legacy Business Registry approvals to staff. These changes would reduce transparency and limit meaningful public participation in decisions that shape the economic and cultural fabric of San Francisco. Programs like the Legacy Business Registry were intentionally designed to include public deliberation because the preservation of San Francisco's historic small businesses is a community priority that deserves openness and accountability.

Equally troubling is the recommendation to eliminate the qualification requirements for Commission seats. The current standards ensure that the majority of commissioners are small business owners, operators, or individuals with direct experience supporting small businesses. These requirements exist for a reason: they ensure that policy decisions are informed by lived experience and grounded in the realities of operating a business in San Francisco. Removing these qualifications risks replacing practical expertise with political appointments and weakening the Commission's ability to effectively advocate for the city's small business community.

Serving on the Small Business Commission has also allowed me to act as a conduit between City departments and communities that historically have not had consistent or equitable access

to City Hall. Neighborhoods such as the Mission, Excelsior, Visitation Valley, and Bayview have long faced barriers to engagement with City processes, shaped by language access challenges, economic inequities, and strained relationships with government institutions. Through my role on the Commission, I have been able to elevate the concerns of small business owners from these communities directly to multiple City departments, facilitate coordination across agencies, and help ensure that policies reflect the realities faced by neighborhood entrepreneurs. For many small business owners, the Commission has become a trusted bridge to City Hall—one that helps build accountability, access, and trust where those relationships historically have been limited.

It is also important to recognize the history of how the Small Business Commission came to exist in its current form. Prior to the creation of the Commission, small business representation existed largely through advisory bodies with limited authority and effectiveness. Recognizing the need for stronger representation, then-Supervisor Gavin Newsom supported legislation creating the Small Business Commission in 1999, and voters later approved Proposition D in 2003 to establish its powers and duties in the City Charter. In 2007, voters again strengthened small business advocacy by approving Proposition I, establishing the Office of Small Business after the Board of Supervisors had resisted expanding its capacity. These voter-approved measures were intended to strengthen the independence and effectiveness of small business representation in City government. Any changes that now weaken those protections risk undermining the intent of what voters approved.

At a time when San Francisco is working to revitalize neighborhood commercial corridors, support community-based entrepreneurship, and rebuild confidence in local government, the independence, expertise, and stability of the Small Business Commission are more important than ever. I respectfully urge you to reconsider these recommendations and preserve the Commission's charter status, authority, and qualification requirements so that small business owners continue to have a meaningful and consistent voice in City policy.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
William Ortiz-Cartagena

From: [Doc Sportello](#)
To: [Board of Supervisors \(BOS\)](#); [Board of Supervisors \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Board Files #260147
Date: Friday, March 13, 2026 8:47:54 PM

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Dear Supervisors,

As a San Francisco resident of District 2, I strongly urge you to VOTE NO on the Charter Amendment and return it to Rules Committee for a proper 30-day review, since it involves major policy decisions!

Additionally, I implore you to allow the Rules Committee to conduct thoughtful review of the 800-plus recommendations in the Streamlining Task Force's 134-page "Final Report," and the 475 pages of its proposed legislation. Conducting review of 300 pages of recommendations from the Streamlining Task Force during a single "Committee of the Whole" hearing does not do justice to massively overhauling participatory democratic governance of our City!

Thank you,
Todd Snyder
1941 Turk street
San Francisco 94115

From: [Michael Garcia-Picazo](#)
To: [Board of Supervisors \(BOS\)](#); [Calvillo, Angela \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Support for the San Francisco Commission on the Status of Women
Date: Saturday, March 14, 2026 10:02:19 AM

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Dear Members of the San Francisco Board of Supervisors,

I am writing in my capacity as a Commissioner of the City of Hayward's Keep Hayward Clean and Green Commission to express my strong support for maintaining the San Francisco Commission on the Status of Women as a Charter Commission with its full authority and independence intact.

The Commission on the Status of Women plays a critical role in advancing gender equity, transparency, and public accountability in San Francisco. Charter Commissions exist to ensure that community voices remain embedded in the oversight and policy-making processes that shape our cities. Weakening this structure by removing the Commission from the City Charter and reducing it to an advisory body would significantly diminish its effectiveness and the public's trust in the integrity of civic institutions.

Independent commissions provide essential checks and balances. Their authority over appointments, departmental leadership accountability, and budget oversight helps safeguard transparency and ensures that diverse community perspectives are represented in decision-making. The proposed changes would concentrate authority while reducing the mechanisms that allow community-informed governance to thrive.

As someone who serves on a municipal commission in the Bay Area, I understand firsthand how important these bodies are for strengthening civic engagement, providing informed policy guidance, and ensuring that government remains accountable to the people it serves. The Commission on the Status of Women has historically been a vital advocate for women, girls, and families, and its institutional strength should be preserved.

I respectfully urge the Board of Supervisors to reject proposals that would weaken the Commission and instead reaffirm San Francisco's commitment to gender equity, community oversight, and transparent governance.

Thank you for your consideration and for your continued service to the residents of San Francisco.

Sincerely,

Michael Garcia-Picazo

Commissioner, Keep Hayward Clean and Green Commission

City of Hayward, CA

From: [Blueprint SF](#)
To: [Chan, Connie \(BOS\)](#); [Sherrill, Stephen \(BOS\)](#); [Sauter, Danny \(BOS\)](#); [Wong, Alan \(BOS\)](#); [Mahmood, Bilal \(BOS\)](#); [Dorsey, Matt \(BOS\)](#); [Melgar, Myrna \(BOS\)](#); [Mandelman, Rafael \(BOS\)](#); [Fielder, Jackie \(BOS\)](#); [Walton, Shamann \(BOS\)](#); [Chen, Chyanne \(BOS\)](#); [Board of Supervisors \(BOS\)](#); [Young, Victor \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Put Smart Commission Reform on the November 2026 Ballot.
Date: Saturday, March 14, 2026 11:33:31 AM

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.



Dear Members of the San Francisco Board of Supervisors,

I urge you to place the Commission Streamlining Task Force's Charter Amendment on the November 2026 ballot so San Francisco voters can decide on long-overdue government reforms.

San Francisco's commission system is bloated, confusing, and outdated. Public input is currently spread across 152 City commissions that often overlap, fail to coordinate, or do not meet at all. Nearly a quarter of commissions are inactive, yet remain on the books. At the same time, dozens of commissions are locked into the City Charter, making even modest updates costly and difficult.

This fragmented structure dilutes public participation and obscures accountability. Voters reasonably expect the Mayor to be responsible for managing City departments, yet many of those decisions are made by commissions most residents have never heard of and do not understand how to engage with.

In November 2024, voters recognized these problems and approved Proposition E, creating the Commission Streamlining Task Force to recommend solutions. After an extensive public process, including 21 public meetings and hundreds of public comments, the Task Force delivered a thoughtful, common-sense reform package.

These recommendations would streamline commissions into a smaller, more effective system; remove inactive and ineffective bodies; clarify roles and responsibilities; improve transparency; and make commissions easier for residents to understand and participate in while preserving appropriate oversight.

Residents deserve the opportunity to vote on these reforms.

I respectfully urge you to honor the will of voters and place the Commission Streamlining Task Force's Charter Amendment on the November 2026 ballot. Doing so will help ensure San Francisco's government is more accountable, transparent, and effective.

Thank you for your consideration.

Kevin Feeley

From: [Francesca Gonzalez](#)
To: [Board of Supervisors \(BOS\)](#)
Cc: [DOSW, DOSW \(WOM\)](#); [Calvillo, Angela \(BOS\)](#); [Andary, Sophia \(HRC\)](#)
Subject: Support for the Commission on the Status of Women
Date: Thursday, March 12, 2026 4:03:56 PM
Attachments: [Support for the Commission on the Status of Women.pdf](#)

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Dear Members of the San Francisco Board of Supervisors,

I am writing to urge you to protect the San Francisco Commission on the Status of Women and vote NO on the proposed changes from the Commission Streamlining Task Force.

Established in 1975 after years of community advocacy and a vote by the Board of Supervisors, the Commission on the Status of Women remains the only city body specifically tasked with advancing gender equity in San Francisco. It plays a critical role in reviewing city policies and budgets and holding government accountable.

The Commission also provides an important public forum where community members can speak, be heard, and participate in decisions that affect their lives. Despite its small size, it is one of the most diverse bodies in city government, bringing essential lived experience and expertise to its work.

Removing the Commission's chartered independence or weakening its governance authority would compromise its ability to provide meaningful oversight and accountability. This includes ensuring the Commissioner has a role in decisions related to hiring and firing the department head and in matters concerning the department's budget, as well as protecting the Commissioner from removal by the Mayor without cause.

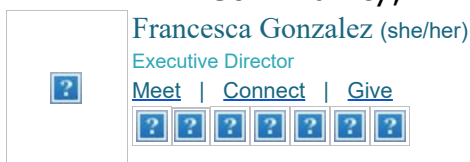
I respectfully urge you to vote down the proposed changes and maintain the Commission on the Status of Women as a chartered, independent body with its full powers and responsibilities intact.

San Francisco needs strong, independent institutions that ensure women, girls, and nonbinary people are represented and heard in city decision-making.

Thank you for your time and for protecting accountability in our local government.

Sincerely,
Francesca Gonzalez

In Community,





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I am writing to urge you to protect the San Francisco Commission on the Status of Women and vote NO on the proposed changes from the Commission Streamlining Task Force.

Established in 1975 after years of community advocacy and a vote by the Board of Supervisors, the Commission on the Status of Women remains the only city body specifically tasked with advancing gender equity in San Francisco. It plays a critical role in reviewing city policies and budgets and holding government accountable.

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I respectfully urge you to vote down the proposed changes and maintain the Commission on the Status of Women as a chartered, independent body with its full powers and responsibilities intact.

San Francisco needs strong, independent institutions that ensure women, girls, and nonbinary people are represented and heard in city decision-making.

Thank you for your time and for protecting accountability in our local government.

Sincerely,

Francesca Gonzalez

Executive Director, Freedom Forward

From: [Blueprint SF](#)
To: [Chan, Connie \(BOS\)](#); [Sherrill, Stephen \(BOS\)](#); [Sauter, Danny \(BOS\)](#); [Wong, Alan \(BOS\)](#); [Mahmood, Bilal \(BOS\)](#); [Dorsey, Matt \(BOS\)](#); [Melgar, Myrna \(BOS\)](#); [Mandelman, Rafael \(BOS\)](#); [Fielder, Jackie \(BOS\)](#); [Walton, Shamann \(BOS\)](#); [Chen, Chyanne \(BOS\)](#); [Board of Supervisors \(BOS\)](#); [Young, Victor \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Put Smart Commission Reform on the November 2026 Ballot.
Date: Thursday, March 12, 2026 12:07:00 PM

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Dear Members of the San Francisco Board of Supervisors,

I urge you to place the Commission Streamlining Task Force's Charter Amendment on the November 2026 ballot so San Francisco voters can decide on long-overdue government reforms.

San Francisco's commission system is bloated, confusing, and outdated. Public input is currently spread across 152 City commissions that often overlap, fail to coordinate, or do not meet at all. Nearly a quarter of commissions are inactive, yet remain on the books. At the same time, dozens of commissions are locked into the City Charter, making even modest updates costly and difficult.

This fragmented structure dilutes public participation and obscures accountability. Voters reasonably expect the Mayor to be responsible for managing City departments, yet many of those decisions are made by commissions most residents have never heard of and do not understand how to engage with.

In November 2024, voters recognized these problems and approved Proposition E, creating the Commission Streamlining Task Force to recommend solutions. After an extensive public process, including 21 public meetings and hundreds of public comments, the Task Force delivered a thoughtful, common-sense reform package.

These recommendations would streamline commissions into a smaller, more effective system; remove inactive and ineffective bodies; clarify roles and responsibilities; improve transparency; and make commissions easier for residents to understand and participate in while preserving appropriate oversight.

Residents deserve the opportunity to vote on these reforms.

I respectfully urge you to honor the will of voters and place the Commission Streamlining Task Force's Charter Amendment on the November 2026 ballot. Doing so will help ensure San Francisco's government is more accountable, transparent, and effective.

Thank you for your consideration.

Donna Crowder

From: [Blueprint SF](#)
To: [Chan, Connie \(BOS\)](#); [Sherrill, Stephen \(BOS\)](#); [Sauter, Danny \(BOS\)](#); [Wong, Alan \(BOS\)](#); [Mahmood, Bilal \(BOS\)](#); [Dorsey, Matt \(BOS\)](#); [Melgar, Myrna \(BOS\)](#); [Mandelman, Rafael \(BOS\)](#); [Fielder, Jackie \(BOS\)](#); [Walton, Shamann \(BOS\)](#); [Chen, Chyanne \(BOS\)](#); [Board of Supervisors \(BOS\)](#); [Young, Victor \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Put Smart Commission Reform on the November 2026 Ballot.
Date: Thursday, March 12, 2026 12:15:59 PM

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Dear Members of the San Francisco Board of Supervisors,

I urge you to place the Commission Streamlining Task Force's Charter Amendment on the November 2026 ballot so San Francisco voters can decide on long-overdue government reforms.

San Francisco's commission system is bloated, confusing, and outdated. Public input is currently spread across 152 City commissions that often overlap, fail to coordinate, or do not meet at all. Nearly a quarter of commissions are inactive, yet remain on the books. At the same time, dozens of commissions are locked into the City Charter, making even modest updates costly and difficult.

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I respectfully urge you to honor the will of voters and place the Commission Streamlining Task Force's Charter Amendment on the November 2026 ballot. Doing so will help ensure San Francisco's government is more accountable, transparent, and effective.

Thank you for your consideration.

Nicole Flowers

From: [Blueprint SF](#)
To: [Chan, Connie \(BOS\)](#); [Sherrill, Stephen \(BOS\)](#); [Sauter, Danny \(BOS\)](#); [Wong, Alan \(BOS\)](#); [Mahmood, Bilal \(BOS\)](#); [Dorsey, Matt \(BOS\)](#); [Melgar, Myrna \(BOS\)](#); [Mandelman, Rafael \(BOS\)](#); [Fielder, Jackie \(BOS\)](#); [Walton, Shamann \(BOS\)](#); [Chen, Chyanne \(BOS\)](#); [Board of Supervisors \(BOS\)](#); [Young, Victor \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Put Smart Commission Reform on the November 2026 Ballot.
Date: Thursday, March 12, 2026 12:22:55 PM

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Dear Members of the San Francisco Board of Supervisors,

I urge you to place the Commission Streamlining Task Force's Charter Amendment on the November 2026 ballot so San Francisco voters can decide on long-overdue government reforms.

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I respectfully urge you to honor the will of voters and place the Commission Streamlining Task Force's Charter Amendment on the November 2026 ballot. Doing so will help ensure San Francisco's government is more accountable, transparent, and effective.

Thank you for your consideration.

Michael Barker

From: [Blueprint SF](#)
To: [Chan, Connie \(BOS\)](#); [Sherrill, Stephen \(BOS\)](#); [Sauter, Danny \(BOS\)](#); [Wong, Alan \(BOS\)](#); [Mahmood, Bilal \(BOS\)](#); [Dorsey, Matt \(BOS\)](#); [Melgar, Myrna \(BOS\)](#); [Mandelman, Rafael \(BOS\)](#); [Fielder, Jackie \(BOS\)](#); [Walton, Shamann \(BOS\)](#); [Chen, Chyanne \(BOS\)](#); [Board of Supervisors \(BOS\)](#); [Young, Victor \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Put Smart Commission Reform on the November 2026 Ballot.
Date: Thursday, March 12, 2026 12:46:14 PM

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Dear Members of the San Francisco Board of Supervisors,

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San Francisco's commission system is bloated, confusing, and outdated. Public input is currently spread across 152 City commissions that often overlap, fail to coordinate, or do not meet at all. Nearly a quarter of commissions are inactive, yet remain on the books. At the same time, dozens of commissions are locked into the City Charter, making even modest updates costly and difficult.

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Thank you for your consideration.

Christopher Chiarello

From: [Blueprint SF](#)
To: [Chan, Connie \(BOS\)](#); [Sherrill, Stephen \(BOS\)](#); [Sauter, Danny \(BOS\)](#); [Wong, Alan \(BOS\)](#); [Mahmood, Bilal \(BOS\)](#); [Dorsey, Matt \(BOS\)](#); [Melgar, Myrna \(BOS\)](#); [Mandelman, Rafael \(BOS\)](#); [Fielder, Jackie \(BOS\)](#); [Walton, Shamann \(BOS\)](#); [Chen, Chyanne \(BOS\)](#); [Board of Supervisors \(BOS\)](#); [Young, Victor \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Put Smart Commission Reform on the November 2026 Ballot.
Date: Thursday, March 12, 2026 1:01:58 PM

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Dear Members of the San Francisco Board of Supervisors,

I urge you to place the Commission Streamlining Task Force's Charter Amendment on the November 2026 ballot so San Francisco voters can decide on long-overdue government reforms.

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Thank you for your consideration.

David Nolley

From: [Blueprint SF](#)
To: [Chan, Connie \(BOS\)](#); [Sherrill, Stephen \(BOS\)](#); [Sauter, Danny \(BOS\)](#); [Wong, Alan \(BOS\)](#); [Mahmood, Bilal \(BOS\)](#); [Dorsey, Matt \(BOS\)](#); [Melgar, Myrna \(BOS\)](#); [Mandelman, Rafael \(BOS\)](#); [Fielder, Jackie \(BOS\)](#); [Walton, Shamann \(BOS\)](#); [Chen, Chyanne \(BOS\)](#); [Board of Supervisors \(BOS\)](#); [Young, Victor \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Put Smart Commission Reform on the November 2026 Ballot.
Date: Thursday, March 12, 2026 1:27:35 PM

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Dear Members of the San Francisco Board of Supervisors,

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I respectfully urge you to honor the will of voters and place the Commission Streamlining Task Force's Charter Amendment on the November 2026 ballot. Doing so will help ensure San Francisco's government is more accountable, transparent, and effective.

Thank you for your consideration.

Brian Brown

From: [Blueprint SF](#)
To: [Chan, Connie \(BOS\)](#); [Sherrill, Stephen \(BOS\)](#); [Sauter, Danny \(BOS\)](#); [Wong, Alan \(BOS\)](#); [Mahmood, Bilal \(BOS\)](#); [Dorsey, Matt \(BOS\)](#); [Melgar, Myrna \(BOS\)](#); [Mandelman, Rafael \(BOS\)](#); [Fielder, Jackie \(BOS\)](#); [Walton, Shamann \(BOS\)](#); [Chen, Chyanne \(BOS\)](#); [Board of Supervisors \(BOS\)](#); [Young, Victor \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Put Smart Commission Reform on the November 2026 Ballot.
Date: Thursday, March 12, 2026 1:32:46 PM

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Dear Members of the San Francisco Board of Supervisors,

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Thank you for your consideration.

Diane Morris

From: [Blueprint SF](#)
To: [Chan, Connie \(BOS\)](#); [Sherrill, Stephen \(BOS\)](#); [Sauter, Danny \(BOS\)](#); [Wong, Alan \(BOS\)](#); [Mahmood, Bilal \(BOS\)](#); [Dorsey, Matt \(BOS\)](#); [Melgar, Myrna \(BOS\)](#); [Mandelman, Rafael \(BOS\)](#); [Fielder, Jackie \(BOS\)](#); [Walton, Shamann \(BOS\)](#); [Chen, Chyanne \(BOS\)](#); [Board of Supervisors \(BOS\)](#); [Young, Victor \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Put Smart Commission Reform on the November 2026 Ballot.
Date: Thursday, March 12, 2026 1:40:51 PM

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Dear Members of the San Francisco Board of Supervisors,

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Thank you for your consideration.

jay yang

From: [Blueprint SF](#)
To: [Chan, Connie \(BOS\)](#); [Sherrill, Stephen \(BOS\)](#); [Sauter, Danny \(BOS\)](#); [Wong, Alan \(BOS\)](#); [Mahmood, Bilal \(BOS\)](#); [Dorsey, Matt \(BOS\)](#); [Melgar, Myrna \(BOS\)](#); [Mandelman, Rafael \(BOS\)](#); [Fielder, Jackie \(BOS\)](#); [Walton, Shamann \(BOS\)](#); [Chen, Chyanne \(BOS\)](#); [Board of Supervisors \(BOS\)](#); [Young, Victor \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Put Smart Commission Reform on the November 2026 Ballot.
Date: Thursday, March 12, 2026 1:40:53 PM

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Thank you for your consideration.

McQueen Moscone

From: [Blueprint SF](#)
To: [Chan, Connie \(BOS\)](#); [Sherrill, Stephen \(BOS\)](#); [Sauter, Danny \(BOS\)](#); [Wong, Alan \(BOS\)](#); [Mahmood, Bilal \(BOS\)](#); [Dorsey, Matt \(BOS\)](#); [Melgar, Myrna \(BOS\)](#); [Mandelman, Rafael \(BOS\)](#); [Fielder, Jackie \(BOS\)](#); [Walton, Shamann \(BOS\)](#); [Chen, Chyanne \(BOS\)](#); [Board of Supervisors \(BOS\)](#); [Young, Victor \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Put Smart Commission Reform on the November 2026 Ballot.
Date: Thursday, March 12, 2026 1:48:01 PM

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Thank you for your consideration.

John Owl

From: [Laura Stein](#)
To: [Board of Supervisors \(BOS\)](#)
Cc: [DOSW, DOSW \(WOM\)](#); [Calvillo, Angela \(BOS\)](#); [Andary, Sophia \(HRC\)](#)
Subject: Support for the Commission on the Status of Women
Date: Thursday, March 12, 2026 2:17:24 PM

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Dear Members of the San Francisco Board of Supervisors,

I am writing to urge you to keep the San Francisco Commission on the Status of Women in the Charter and to reject any changes to commissions that weaken their independence and authority. While I understand the value of removing defunct and outdated commissions from the Charter and the administrative code, I do not believe that the voters intended Prop E to make changes to how commissions are authorized, how commissioners are appointed, or their power and authority.

Established in 1975 after years of community advocacy and a vote by the Board of Supervisors, the Commission on the Status of Women remains the only city body specifically tasked with advancing gender equity in San Francisco. It plays a critical role in reviewing city policies and budgets and holding government accountable.

The Commission also provides an important public forum where community members can speak, be heard, and participate in decisions that affect their lives. Despite its small size, it is one of the most diverse bodies in city government, bringing essential lived experience and expertise to its work.

Removing the Commission's chartered independence or weakening its governance authority would compromise its ability to provide meaningful oversight and accountability, and reduce incentives for citizen participation. This includes ensuring the Commissioner has a role in decisions related to hiring and firing the department head and in matters concerning the department's budget, as well as protecting the Commissioner from removal by the Mayor without cause.

I respectfully urge you to vote down any proposed changes that weaken the status of commissions and to maintain the Commission on the Status of Women as a chartered, independent body with its full powers and responsibilities intact.

San Francisco needs strong, independent institutions that ensure women, girls, and nonbinary people are represented and heard in city decision-making.

Thank you for your time and for protecting accountability in our local government.

Sincerely,

Laura Stein, San Francisco

From: [Andary, Sophia \(HRC\)](#)
To: [Board of Supervisors \(BOS\)](#); [Calvillo, Angela \(BOS\)](#); [Chan, Connie \(BOS\)](#); [ChanStaff \(BOS\)](#); [Hsieh, Frances \(BOS\)](#); [Sherrill, Stephen \(BOS\)](#); [SherrillStaff](#); [Hebb, Jack \(BOS\)](#); [Wong, Alan \(BOS\)](#); [WongStaff \(BOS\)](#); [Mahmood, Bilal \(BOS\)](#); [Logan, Samantha \(BOS\)](#); [MahmoodStaff](#); [Dorsey, Matt \(BOS\)](#); [Donovan, Dominica \(BOS\)](#); [DorseyStaff \(BOS\)](#); [Melgar, Myrna \(BOS\)](#); [Low, Jen \(BOS\)](#); [Mathewson, Melanie \(BOS\)](#); [MandelmanStaff \(BOS\)](#); [Mandelman, Rafael \(BOS\)](#); [Felder, Jackie \(BOS\)](#); [FelderStaff](#); [Gaona, Sasha \(BOS\)](#); [Gallardo, Tracy \(BOS\)](#); [Lopez-Weaver, Lindsey \(BOS\)](#); [Waltonstaff \(BOS\)](#); [Chen, Chyanne \(BOS\)](#); [Prager, Jackie \(BOS\)](#); [ChenStaff](#)
Cc: [Blakely, Dominique \(HRC\)](#); [Aroche, Diana \(HRC\)](#); [Andary, Sophia \(HRC\)](#)
Subject: Letter of Support for the San Francisco Commission on the Status of Women
Date: Thursday, March 12, 2026 3:17:12 PM

March 12, 2026

San Francisco Board of Supervisors
1 Dr Carlton B Goodlett Pl.
San Francisco, CA 94102

Re: Letter of Support for the San Francisco Commission on the Status of Women
BOS Meeting - March 17, 2026

Dear Members of the San Francisco Board of Supervisors,

I'm writing not only as a Commissioner on the San Francisco Commission on the Status of Women, but as someone whose life has shaped a deep commitment to justice, equity, and public accountability. As a queer Lebanese American woman, war survivor, activist, and community leader, my experiences inform the work I do every day. I became a commissioner because I believe in real democracy, ensuring those most impacted by policy have a seat at the table. That same conviction led me to co-found Women's March San Francisco and continues to drive my work today.

Every day, people must be involved in holding power accountable, especially now. We need more voices from within our communities in government, not fewer. We need to remove barriers, not create new ones. And we cannot silence or sideline the voices of women, girls, and gender-expansive people by weakening the Commission on the Status of Women.

The Commission on the Status of Women was established in 1975 after years of advocacy and a vote by the Board of Supervisors to advance gender equity in San Francisco. It leads to the implementation of the CEDAW Ordinance, works to end gender-based violence, and provides oversight while tracking the city's progress on equity goals. Yet women, girls, and gender-expansive people are still fighting for safety, pay equity, and bodily autonomy. This Commission remains the **only city body** specifically charged with advancing gender equity, reviewing policies and budgets, and holding the city accountable.

Our work is more than reports and hearings; we create access. The Commission provides a space where community members can show up, speak out, and be heard. Though small, it is one of the most diverse bodies in the city, and that diversity brings essential lived experience and expertise to our work. We need more of that, not less.

I strongly urge you to vote down the proposed changes by the Commission Streamlining Task Force and keep the Commission on the Status of Women a chartered, independent body with its full powers and governance authority.

These are not optional features; they are what make the Commission effective.

Independent oversight and checks and balances are essential to protecting a fair and accountable government.

Please do the right thing for the community you serve and maintain real accountability in government. Don't take away one of the only dedicated spaces in our city where women, girls, and nonbinary people can be seen, heard, and represented in decision-making.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Thank you,
Sophia Andary
Commissioner, Commission on the Status of Women
City and County of San Francisco

From: [Blueprint SF](#)
To: [Chan, Connie \(BOS\)](#); [Sherrill, Stephen \(BOS\)](#); [Sauter, Danny \(BOS\)](#); [Wong, Alan \(BOS\)](#); [Mahmood, Bilal \(BOS\)](#); [Dorsey, Matt \(BOS\)](#); [Melgar, Myrna \(BOS\)](#); [Mandelman, Rafael \(BOS\)](#); [Fielder, Jackie \(BOS\)](#); [Walton, Shamann \(BOS\)](#); [Chen, Chyanne \(BOS\)](#); [Board of Supervisors \(BOS\)](#); [Young, Victor \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Put Smart Commission Reform on the November 2026 Ballot.
Date: Thursday, March 12, 2026 3:38:10 PM

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.



Dear Members of the San Francisco Board of Supervisors,

I urge you to place the Commission Streamlining Task Force's Charter Amendment on the November 2026 ballot so San Francisco voters can decide on long-overdue government reforms.

San Francisco's commission system is bloated, confusing, and outdated. Public input is currently spread across 152 City commissions that often overlap, fail to coordinate, or do not meet at all. Nearly a quarter of commissions are inactive, yet remain on the books. At the same time, dozens of commissions are locked into the City Charter, making even modest updates costly and difficult.

This fragmented structure dilutes public participation and obscures accountability. Voters reasonably expect the Mayor to be responsible for managing City departments, yet many of those decisions are made by commissions most residents have never heard of and do not understand how to engage with.

In November 2024, voters recognized these problems and approved Proposition E, creating the Commission Streamlining Task Force to recommend solutions. After an extensive public process, including 21 public meetings and hundreds of public comments, the Task Force delivered a thoughtful, common-sense reform package.

These recommendations would streamline commissions into a smaller, more effective system; remove inactive and ineffective bodies; clarify roles and responsibilities; improve transparency; and make commissions easier for residents to understand and participate in while preserving appropriate oversight.

Residents deserve the opportunity to vote on these reforms.

I respectfully urge you to honor the will of voters and place the Commission Streamlining Task Force's Charter Amendment on the November 2026 ballot. Doing so will help ensure San Francisco's government is more accountable, transparent, and effective.

Thank you for your consideration.

lucy junus

From: [Blueprint SF](#)
To: [Chan, Connie \(BOS\)](#); [Sherrill, Stephen \(BOS\)](#); [Sauter, Danny \(BOS\)](#); [Wong, Alan \(BOS\)](#); [Mahmood, Bilal \(BOS\)](#); [Dorsey, Matt \(BOS\)](#); [Melgar, Myrna \(BOS\)](#); [Mandelman, Rafael \(BOS\)](#); [Fielder, Jackie \(BOS\)](#); [Walton, Shamann \(BOS\)](#); [Chen, Chyanne \(BOS\)](#); [Board of Supervisors \(BOS\)](#); [Young, Victor \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Put Smart Commission Reform on the November 2026 Ballot.
Date: Thursday, March 12, 2026 3:44:40 PM

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Thank you for your consideration.

Jennifer Stanley

From: [Blueprint SF](#)
To: [Chan, Connie \(BOS\)](#); [Sherrill, Stephen \(BOS\)](#); [Sauter, Danny \(BOS\)](#); [Wong, Alan \(BOS\)](#); [Mahmood, Bilal \(BOS\)](#); [Dorsey, Matt \(BOS\)](#); [Melgar, Myrna \(BOS\)](#); [Mandelman, Rafael \(BOS\)](#); [Fielder, Jackie \(BOS\)](#); [Walton, Shamann \(BOS\)](#); [Chen, Chyanne \(BOS\)](#); [Board of Supervisors \(BOS\)](#); [Young, Victor \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Put Smart Commission Reform on the November 2026 Ballot.
Date: Thursday, March 12, 2026 3:45:34 PM

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Thank you for your consideration.

John Stanley

From: [Blueprint SF](#)
To: [Chan, Connie \(BOS\)](#); [Sherrill, Stephen \(BOS\)](#); [Sauter, Danny \(BOS\)](#); [Wong, Alan \(BOS\)](#); [Mahmood, Bilal \(BOS\)](#); [Dorsey, Matt \(BOS\)](#); [Melgar, Myrna \(BOS\)](#); [Mandelman, Rafael \(BOS\)](#); [Fielder, Jackie \(BOS\)](#); [Walton, Shamann \(BOS\)](#); [Chen, Chyanne \(BOS\)](#); [Board of Supervisors \(BOS\)](#); [Young, Victor \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Put Smart Commission Reform on the November 2026 Ballot.
Date: Thursday, March 12, 2026 3:52:33 PM

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Dear Members of the San Francisco Board of Supervisors,

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Thank you for your consideration.

Devlin Stanley

From: [Blueprint SF](#)
To: [Chan, Connie \(BOS\)](#); [Sherrill, Stephen \(BOS\)](#); [Sauter, Danny \(BOS\)](#); [Wong, Alan \(BOS\)](#); [Mahmood, Bilal \(BOS\)](#); [Dorsey, Matt \(BOS\)](#); [Melgar, Myrna \(BOS\)](#); [Mandelman, Rafael \(BOS\)](#); [Fielder, Jackie \(BOS\)](#); [Walton, Shamann \(BOS\)](#); [Chen, Chyanne \(BOS\)](#); [Board of Supervisors \(BOS\)](#); [Young, Victor \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Put Smart Commission Reform on the November 2026 Ballot.
Date: Thursday, March 12, 2026 3:53:10 PM

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Thank you for your consideration.

Shane Stanley

From: [Blueprint SF](#)
To: [Chan, Connie \(BOS\)](#); [Sherrill, Stephen \(BOS\)](#); [Sauter, Danny \(BOS\)](#); [Wong, Alan \(BOS\)](#); [Mahmood, Bilal \(BOS\)](#); [Dorsey, Matt \(BOS\)](#); [Melgar, Myrna \(BOS\)](#); [Mandelman, Rafael \(BOS\)](#); [Fielder, Jackie \(BOS\)](#); [Walton, Shamann \(BOS\)](#); [Chen, Chyanne \(BOS\)](#); [Board of Supervisors \(BOS\)](#); [Young, Victor \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Put Smart Commission Reform on the November 2026 Ballot.
Date: Thursday, March 12, 2026 3:53:43 PM

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Thank you for your consideration.

Ocelia Stanley

From: [86 Dwellers](#)
To: [Board of Supervisors \(BOS\)](#); [Board of Supervisors \(BOS\)](#)
Cc: [Young, Victor \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Public response to Proposition E and Ordinance 260217
Date: Saturday, March 14, 2026 1:11:39 PM

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

In November 2024, San Francisco voters approved Proposition E, which established the Commission Streamlining Task Force to evaluate and recommend reforms to the city's boards, commissions, and advisory bodies. The goal was to improve efficiency by reducing redundancy, eliminating inactive entities, consolidating overlaps, and standardizing operations. The task force, after a year of hearings and analysis, submitted its final report on January 30, 2026, proposing significant changes to the city's governance structure.

Key Proposals

The task force reviewed 152 public bodies (115 active and 37 inactive). It recommends reducing this to 87 bodies (86 active), primarily by:

- Eliminating 36 inactive or defunct bodies (e.g., those that haven't met in years or have fulfilled their purpose).
- Removing 24 duplicative bodies from city code (functions better handled by staff or other entities).
- Consolidating 2 overlapping bodies into 1 new entity.
- Taking no action on 4 bodies (allowing natural sunsets or retaining as-is).
- Modifying retained bodies for efficiency, such as shifting hiring/firing authority for department heads to the Mayor (except for sensitive ones like the Ethics Commission), adding term limits (up to 12 years), three-year sunset dates for advisory bodies, at-will appointments, and moving non-decision-making bodies to the Administrative Code for easier future amendments.
- Standardizing naming (e.g., "councils" for advisory bodies, "boards/commissions" for decision-making ones) and removing unnecessary requirements like annual reporting or floating seat qualifications.

These changes aim to cut total commission seats from about 1,500 to 900, reduce administrative burdens, and focus on effective governance. Some eliminations require supermajority votes (e.g., 4/5 for Ethics Commission-related or 8/11 for certain task forces).

Changes by Policy Area

The recommendations are organized by policy area, with specific eliminations, consolidations, and modifications. Below is a summary table:

Policy Area	Current Bodies (Active)	Proposed Bodies	Key Changes and Examples
General Administration & Finance	29 (21)	15	Eliminate inactive/duplicative (e.g., Contract Review Committee, Treasury Oversight Committee); modify others (e.g., move Refuse Rate Board to Administrative Code, remove annual reporting); retain Assessment Appeals Board unchanged.
City Employment and Benefits	6 (4)	4	Eliminate Employee Relations Board (never active) and Special Strike Committee; merge Retiree Health Care Trust Fund Board and Retirement Board; retain In-Home Supportive Services Public Authority Governing Body unchanged.
Elections	3 (3)	3	Modify Ballot Simplification Committee (move to Administrative Code) and Elections Commission; retain Elections Task Force unchanged.
General City Administration	18 (12)	6	Eliminate several (e.g., City Hall Preservation Advisory Committee, Law Library Board of Trustees); modify others (e.g., Commission on Animal Control and Welfare); remove powers to create new policy bodies.
Public Integrity	2 (2)	2	Modify Ethics Commission (ballot processes) and Sunshine Ordinance Task Force (structure). Eliminate inactive (e.g., Citizens Committee on Community Development, Housing Stability Fund Oversight Board); modify key ones (e.g., Arts Commission,

Housing and Economic Development	47 (33)	28	<p>Planning Commission by removing hiring/firing powers); retain some like Residential Rent Stabilization and Arbitration Board unchanged. Sub-areas include arts/culture (8 to 6 active), building/permitting (6 to 6), economic development (5 to 5), housing/community development (5 to 4), planning/land use (9 to 5, e.g., eliminate Treasure Island Citizens Advisory Board), and workforce development (4 to 2).</p>
Infrastructure, Climate, & Mobility	31 (23)	14	<p>Eliminate several (e.g., Urban Forestry Council, Graffiti Advisory Board); modify others (e.g., Recreation and Park Commission); sub-areas include capital projects (6 to 3), parks/environment (5 to 3), port (2 to 1), public utilities (3 to 3), public works (2 to 0), and transportation (5 to 4).</p>
Public Health & Wellbeing	33 (28)	21	<p>Eliminate inactive (e.g., Early Childhood Community Oversight and Advisory Committee, Food Security Task Force); merge some (e.g., Advisory Council to Department of Disability and Aging Services with Dignity Fund Oversight); modify others (e.g., Health Commission); sub-areas include children/youth (7 to 6), community health (4 to 3), homelessness (5 to 2), human rights (5 to 5), and human services (7 to 5).</p>
Public Safety	12 (10)	9	<p>Eliminate inactive (e.g., Delinquency Prevention Commission); modify others (e.g., Fire Commission, Police Commission by removing</p>

hiring/firing); sub-areas include justice system (5 to 4) and public protection (5 to 5).

Timeline and Next Steps

- **January 30, 2026:** Final report and proposed legislation submitted.
- **By March 1, 2026:** Task force proposes implementing legislation; City Attorney drafts any Charter amendments.
- **March 17, 2026:** Board of Supervisors hearing on recommendations (must occur by April 1, 2026).
- **Within 90 days of approval:** Ordinances take effect (unless vetoed by two-thirds Board majority).
- **November 3, 2026:** Any required Charter amendments go to voters on the ballot.
- **By January 31, 2027:** Task force expires.
- Some bodies have built-in sunsets (e.g., Sentencing Commission in June 2026, Free City College Oversight Committee in 2029).

Sincerely,

86dwellers executive committee

From: [North Market](#)
To: [Board of Supervisors \(BOS\)](#)
Cc: [Board of Supervisors \(BOS\)](#); [Young, Victor \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Report changing of names for Ordinance 260217
Date: Saturday, March 14, 2026 1:41:57 PM

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The Commission Streamlining Task Force's final report from January 2026 emphasizes efficiency through eliminations, consolidations, and modifications rather than widespread renaming of San Francisco's boards, commissions, and advisory bodies. However, it does propose standardizing naming conventions where applicable: advisory bodies should generally be called "councils," while decision-making bodies should be "boards" or "commissions." Exceptions are made for historical significance, branding, or legal reasons (e.g., Youth Commission and Sunshine Ordinance Task Force retain their names). Specific proposed name changes are limited, as most bodies (over 80) keep their current names even if restructured or relocated (e.g., to the Administrative Code for easier amendments).

Proposed Name Changes

Below is a summary of the explicit name changes recommended in the report. These are organized by policy area for clarity, based on the task force's groupings.

Policy Area	Current Name	Proposed New Name	Details
Public Health & Wellbeing (Homelessness sub-area)	Homelessness Oversight Commission	Homelessness Advisory Board	Combined with the Local Homeless Coordinating Board (which becomes a subcommittee); modified to advisory-only role and moved to Administrative Code.
Housing and Economic Development (Planning/Land Use sub-area)	Bayview Citizens Advisory Committee (Bayview CAC)	Bayview Citizens Advisory Council	Renamed to align with "council" convention for advisory bodies; structure modified.
City Employment and Benefits	Retiree Health Care Trust Fund Board and	Merged into a single unnamed entity (specific name not)	Consolidation to reduce overlap; requires Board of Supervisors approval; structures

Retirement Board	detailed; to be determined via ordinance)	modified with term limits and at-will removals.
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Bodies Retaining Names

The vast majority of the 87 proposed retained bodies (after eliminations and consolidations) keep their existing names, with changes focused on powers, sizes, terms, or locations instead. Examples include:

- **Arts & Culture:** Arts Commission, Asian Art Commission, Film Commission, Fine Arts Museums Board of Trustees, Library Commission, War Memorial Board of Trustees, Southeast Community Facility Commission.
- **Regulation & Appeals:** Board of Appeals, Building Inspection Commission, Code Advisory Committee, Relocation Appeals Board, Assessment Appeals Board.
- **Planning & Finance:** Capital Planning Committee, Citizens' General Obligation Bond Oversight Committee, Enhanced Infrastructure Financing District Public Financing Authority No. 1, Board of Directors of the San Francisco Downtown Revitalization and Economic Recovery Financing District.
- **Health & Welfare:** Health Commission, Airport Commission, Cannabis Oversight Committee, Commission on Animal Control and Welfare, Behavioral Health Commission (potential future rename noted but not required), Health Service Board.
- **Governance & Elections:** Entertainment Commission, Small Business Commission, Ballot Simplification Committee, Elections Commission, Elections Task Force, Refuse Rate Board, State Legislation Committee, Sweatfree Procurement Advisory Group.
- **Social Services:** Local Homeless Coordinating Board (as subcommittee), Children and Families First Commission, Children, Youth, and Their Families Oversight and Advisory Committee, Civil Service Commission, Human Rights Commission, Commission on the Status of Women, Immigrant Rights Commission, LGBTQI+ Advisory Committee, Inclusionary Housing Technical Advisory Committee, SOMA Community Stabilization Fund Community Advisory Committee.
- **Other:** Youth Commission, Sunshine Ordinance Task Force, Veterans' Affairs Commission, Human Services Commission.

These recommendations are pending review by the Board of Supervisors (hearing scheduled for March 17, 2026) and potential voter approval for Charter amendments in November 2026. No other explicit renames were proposed beyond the ones listed.

Concern,

Former Board Members of North of Market Planning Coalition

From: [Wong, Jocelyn \(BOS\)](#)
To: [BOS Legislation, \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: FW: 260147 - "streamlining"
Date: Tuesday, March 17, 2026 9:24:32 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

Best regards,

Jocelyn Wong

Legislative Clerk

San Francisco Board of Supervisors

1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, Room 244

San Francisco, CA 94102

T: 415.554.7702 | F: 415.554.5163

jocelyn.wong@sfgov.org | www.sfbos.org



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From: Deirdre Visser <dbvisser@gmail.com>

Sent: Tuesday, March 17, 2026 6:45 AM

To: Khoo, Arthur (BOS) <arthur.khoo@sfgov.org>; Wong, Jocelyn (BOS) <jocelyn.wong@sfgov.org>

Subject: 260147 - "streamlining"

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

THE ARTS COMMISSION IS NOT BROKEN AND DOES NOT NEED FIXING.

We all seek to make San Francisco a more vibrant city, amplifying the visibility of the arts and culture, both local and regional voices as well as national and international ones.

- Moving the Arts Commissioners' function to the Admin Code effectively strips the

Commissioners of decision-making authority, placing it in the hands of staff who may or may not have arts expertise. Advisory bodies have no teeth and because of that are themselves at risk of losing expert voices.

- The Arts Commission will no longer have approval of the department's program allocations; these decisions will land in the Mayor's Office and the Board of Supervisors, not with lifelong arts advocates, cultural workers, and field experts.

The arts community is passionate and political. We engage monthly with SFAC decisions, turning out in force for public meetings. The proposed consolidation of authorities and decision making comes with responsibility; aesthetic decisions must be defensible.. The Mayor's Office may not want that role after all!

Finally, our Arts Commission has been championed nationally and internationally as one of the best municipal arts infrastructures. Recent problems with oversight of the cultural centers were not a structural problem; it was a leadership/people problem. Do not make structural changes that will impact the arts in San Francisco for generations, based on the poor performance of individuals over the last several years.

While I support the value of making the city more nimble, I don't support the proposed changes.

Thank you.
Deirdre

--

Deirdre Visser
(she/her)

www.deirdrevisser.net/ or www.artsatciis.org
[Joinery, Joists and Gender: A History of Woodworking for the 21st Century](#)

"Telling the truth about the past helps cause justice in the present. Achieving justice in the present helps us tell the truth about the past." —James W. Loewen

"We live in capitalism, its power seems inescapable – but then, so did the divine right of kings. Any human power can be resisted and changed by human beings." —Ursula K. LeGuin