

## Patrick Monette-Shaw

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April 10, 2026

Rules Committee

San Francisco Board of Supervisors

The Honorable Shamann Walton, Supervisor, San Francisco Board of Supervisors, Chair, Rules Committee

The Honorable Stephen Sherrill, Supervisor, San Francisco Board of Supervisors, Member, Rules Committee

The Honorable Rafael Mandelman, Supervisor, San Francisco Board of Supervisors, Member, Rules Committee

1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place

San Francisco, CA 94102

**Re: Agenda Item #1: Affirming the Importance of Independent Civilian Oversight of the  
San Francisco Police Commission (Board File #260288)**

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Dear Chair Walton and Rules Committee Members,

I am submitting testimony supporting the Resolution in Board File #260288 affirming the importance of San Francisco's Police Commission to provide independent citizen oversight of San Francisco's Police Department.

I agree with and support the proposed Resolution's findings that nationally recognized principles of effective civilian police oversight emphasize independence, transparency, accessibility to the public, and insulation from political interference as essential components of credible accountability systems.

It is painfully obvious that the Streamlining Task Force's recommendations in its "*Final Report*" and legislative proposals would substantially curtail the Police Commission's autonomy, and transfer its core oversight functions in a manner that undermines civilian accountability over the Police Department.

I, too, am very concerned that the Streamlining Task Force's proposed restructuring of the Police Commission — including removal of a member qualification to include a retired judge or an attorney with trial experience, placing all disciplinary actions with the Police Chief, removal of Board of Supervisor approval for removal of Mayoral appointees to the Police Commission, removal of Commission involvement in hiring and firing of the department head (i.e., the Chief of Police), and changing Commission member removal from "*for cause*" to "*at will*" removal — would diminish transparency, weaken checks and balances, reduce public confidence in disciplinary processes, and otherwise adversely affect the independence of and citizen trust in the Police Commission.

I urge the Rules Committee to pass this proposed Resolution and forward it to the full Board of Supervisors with a strong recommendation that the full Board also pass this Resolution. The Police Commission's full autonomy must be preserved.

Additionally, just as the planned changes to the Police Commission would come at the expense of public trust, constitutional safeguards, and community participation in matters of public concern to San Franciscans, many other recommendations in the Streamlining Task Force's "*Final report*" and proposed Charter Amendment similarly would drastically change participatory governance of our City.

The Board of Supervisors should similarly affirm the importance of maintaining structurally independent Boards, Commissions, and advisory policy bodies throughout City government to preserve policy, leadership, and governance oversight of our City!

Respectfully submitted,

**Patrick Monette-Shaw**

*Columnist/Reporter*

*Westside Observer* Newspaper

April 10, 2026

**Affirming the Importance of Independent Civilian Oversight of the San Francisco Police Commission**

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cc: Victor Young, Clerk of the Rules Committee  
The Honorable Connie Chan, Supervisor, District 1 The Honorable Danny Sauter, Supervisor, District 3  
The Honorable Alan Wong, Supervisor, District 4  
The Honorable Bilal Mahmood, District 5  
The Honorable Matt Dorsey, Supervisor, District 6  
The Honorable Myrna Melgar, District 7  
The Honorable Jackie Fielder, Supervisor, District 9  
The Honorable Shamann Walton, Supervisor, District 10  
The Honorable Chyanne Chen, District 11