



August 12, 2026

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

Re: Request to Restore the San Francisco Veterans Affairs Commission

Dear Honorable Members of the Board of Supervisors,

On behalf of the San Francisco Veterans Affairs Council, we respectfully urge the Board of Supervisors to introduce and adopt an ordinance restoring the San Francisco Veterans Affairs Commission and reversing the provisions adopted through the Commission Streamlining Task Force that uniquely affect the City's veterans advisory body.

This request is about far more than restoring a historic name. It is about preserving the dignity, permanence, and institutional respect afforded to the men and women who have served our nation.

The veterans community is deeply concerned that the Streamlining Task Force recommendations treated the Veterans Affairs Commission differently from many similarly situated commissions and advisory bodies. While numerous commissions retained their identity and continued without comparable restrictions, the Veterans Affairs Commission was renamed, subjected to a sunset provision, and assigned additional reporting requirements that place its future in question.

Whether intentional or not, these combined actions have created the perception that the City's commitment to veterans is less permanent than its commitment to other communities. Veterans should never be placed in the position of repeatedly proving the value of their voice in City Hall.

Veterans are not asking for special treatment. We are asking for equal treatment.

For decades, the San Francisco Veterans Affairs Commission has advised the City on veterans' healthcare, housing, homelessness, mental health, employment, emergency preparedness, military partnerships, public policy, and the needs of military families. The Commission has served as the official voice of those who answered our nation's call to service and has strengthened the relationship between veterans and City government. Its value has already been demonstrated through years of dedicated public service and meaningful policy recommendations.

Veterans' needs do not expire. The need for housing, healthcare, suicide prevention, employment assistance, and advocacy will remain for generations to come. Neither should the City's commitment to maintaining a permanent and respected advisory body representing those who



served. The service and sacrifice of veterans did not come with a sunset date, and neither should the institution created to represent them.

As our nation commemorates the 250th anniversary of the United States, this is an opportunity for San Francisco to reaffirm its commitment to those who defended the freedoms we all enjoy. We respectfully ask for enactment of a corrective ordinance that restores the historic name of the San Francisco Veterans Affairs Commission, removes the sunset provision and unique reporting requirements, restores its previous standing and authority, and affirms that veterans deserve the same permanence, dignity, and institutional respect afforded to other advisory bodies throughout our City.

Council Vice President Hanley Chan, who drafted this letter on behalf of the San Francisco Veterans Affairs Council, is available to meet with any staff member to further discuss this matter and provide additional context as needed. We appreciate your consideration and stand ready to support the City in ensuring that San Francisco's veterans continue to have a permanent, respected, and independent voice in City Hall.

Respectfully,

San Francisco Veterans Affairs Council
City and County of San Francisco