

Member, Board of Supervisors  
District 10



City and County of San Francisco

**SHAMANN WALTON**

華頌善

August 19, 2025

**TO:** Commission Streamlining Task Force  
Sophie Hayward, Member, City Administrator's Office  
Natasha Mihal, Member, Controller's Office  
Andrea Bruss, Member, City Attorney's Office  
Ed Harrington, Member, Public Sector Labor Representative, BOS Designee  
Jean Fraser, Member, CEO of Presidio Trust/Mayor's Designee

**RE: Strongly Opposing the Recommendation to Eliminate the Sheriff's Department Oversight Board**

Dear Members of the Commission Streamlining Task Force,

I am writing to strongly oppose the recommendation to eliminate the Sheriff's Department Oversight Board (SDOB) by the Commission Streamlining Task Force.

The Sheriff's Department Oversight Board was created by San Francisco voters in 2020 through Proposition D, a charter amendment, passing with nearly 67% approval. Voters demanded accountability and transparency because of repeated incidents inside our jails that raised deep concerns about abuse and mismanagement.

This commission was not established on a theoretical basis. We have seen cases of "fight-clubs" in the jail where deputies were accused of forcing incarcerated people to fight each other for entertainment prior to proposing this measure. We have seen disturbing in-custody deaths, excessive use of force, and other serious breakdowns in safety and accountability under the Sheriff's watch. These are not isolated problems, and they underscore why independent oversight is necessary.

The Sheriff's Department Oversight Board provides the public with a direct line of accountability, shining light on a department that operates behind closed doors. Removing it would not only undermine the will of the voters but also strip away a safeguard that helps prevent abuse and restores trust between the community and law enforcement.

According to City Charter §14.101, any initiative or Charter amendment "shall not be subject to veto, or to amendment or repeal except by the voters, unless such initiative or declaration of policy shall otherwise provide." Since the Sheriff's Department Oversight Board was created by the Charter, the only way to eliminate it is by amending the Charter, which requires voter approval. Proposition D, approved by voters in November 2020, added Charter §4.137, which

formally established the Sheriff's Department Oversight Board (SDOB) and defined its composition, powers, duties, and investigative authority. Eliminating this voter-approved body would not only strip away a critical safeguard for accountability, it would also directly contradict the clear will of the people of San Francisco.

At a time when transparency and accountability are more critical than ever, removing the Sheriff's Department Oversight Board would be a step backwards. For these reasons, I strongly urge you to reject the Task Force's recommendation and preserve the Sheriff's Department Oversight Board.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Shamann Walton', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Supervisor Shamann Walton, District 10  
President, San Francisco Board of Supervisors

**CC:** Mayor Daniel Lurie  
Carmen Chu, City Administrator  
San Francisco Board of Supervisors  
Angela Calvillo, Clerk of the Board of Supervisors  
Sheriff's Department Oversight Board  
Paul Henderson, Director, Police of Police Accountability