

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [commissionstreamlining](#)  
**Subject:** OPPOSE RECOMMENDATIONS Agenda Item 6 Juvenile Probation Bodies  
**Date:** Saturday, August 30, 2025 7:07:42 PM

---

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

Dear Chair Harrington and Members of the Task Force,

I write to express my **strong opposition** to the recommendations under consideration that would alter the City Charter or weaken the San Francisco Juvenile Probation Commission (JPC). These recommendations, if approved, would not only dismantle decades of reform but would expose system-impacted youth and families to deeper inequities and lasting harm.

San Francisco is the only county in California with a Probation Department dedicated solely to youth under the jurisdiction of the juvenile court. For more than three decades, the Juvenile Probation Commission has served as a model of robust, community-centered oversight. Weakening the JPC's authority would:

- Erase critical accountability mechanisms over budget, policy, contracts, and hiring
- Silence community voices by eliminating Superior Court nominations and imposing at-will removal
- Destabilize a proven system of oversight that has been central to equity-driven reforms, youth centered policy development, and the protection of the public

These are not abstract concerns. Weakening the JPC would immediately affect probation operations, jeopardize vital community-based services, and place additional burdens on communities of color, whose youth are already vastly overrepresented in our juvenile justice and child welfare systems.

The Juvenile Probation Commission and the Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council (JJCC) are not interchangeable bodies. Both are legally required and **serve fundamentally different purposes:**

- **The Juvenile Probation Commission (Charter § 7.102):** Established in 1989, after voters approved Proposition L, to create a separate Juvenile Probation Department. The JPC **provides governance-level oversight**. This structure was deliberately designed to ensure transparency, accountability, and meaningful community input into a department entrusted with serving San Francisco's most vulnerable youth and families.
- **Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council (WIC §§ 749.22–749.27):** The JJCC is mandated under state law to develop and implement a countywide plan for juvenile justice resources. Its scope is limited to planning and coordination—**not direct governance or oversight. By law, membership includes only one at-large community member**, a restriction that severely limits meaningful

community input.

The Juvenile Probation Commission exists because San Francisco voters and policymakers recognized that youth justice requires a separate and specialized approach and comprehensive community oversight. To diminish or eliminate its authority would be a fundamental betrayal of that mandate and would set a dangerous precedent that weakens youth justice oversight across California.

I urge the Commission Streamlining Task Force to reject these recommendations in their entirety.

Respectfully,,

Regina S Islas

[she/her]



there is a force of love moving through the universe and all shall be well  
~ helen of norwich