

**Patrick Monette-Shaw**

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San Francisco, CA 94109

September 12, 2025

Ed Harrington, Chair  
Commission Streamlining Task Force  
c/o City Administrator's Office  
City Hall, Room 316  
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place  
San Francisco, CA 94102-4694

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**“Stripping ‘governance’ Commissions out of City Charter ‘establishing authority’ protections must be stopped! It’s wrong, and may erode their governance mandates.”**

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Re: **Multiple Recommendations Commissions Being Moved From City Charter to Admin. Code**

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Dear Mr. Harrington and Commission Streamlining Task Force Members,

On September 3, this Streamlining Task Force recommended keeping the “*Establishing Authority*” for the Police, Fire, and Juvenile Probations commissions housed in the Charter, after Task Force Chair Ed Harrington argued persuasively that taking bodies out of the City Charter and moving them to the Administrative Code opens the door to governance bodies formerly housed in the Charter not remaining as a governance body, that could be changed easily to being merely an **advisory** body. Harrington stated that the only way to **guarantee** those three Commissions remain governance commissions is to keep them in the Charter.

Just before the September 3 meeting was about to end, Harrington made sure to resolve a spat among the four Task Force members present. On three successive “*motions*” about each of the three Commissions, the Task Force voted 3-to-1 to keep all three in the Charter, with Vice-Chair Fraser reportedly being the sole dissenting vote. Fraser is the current CEO of the Presidio Trust, and a “*San Francisco City Advisory Board Member*” of the conservative SPUR organization. It may be welcome news that Fraser — appointed by Mayor Lurie to do his bidding — has reportedly just resigned from this Streamlining Task Force! **Did Fraser really resign, or did the Mayor demand an “at will” premature removal?**

The Task Force asserted the decision to keep the Police, Fire, and Juvenile Probation Commissions in the Charter **only** because they involve public safety bodies. That seems implausible, and wholly not credible.

On September 17, the Task Force is again considering whether to remove three other current “*governance*” Boards and Commissions from the Charter and move them into the Administrative Code — including the Public Works Commission, Sanitation and Streets Commission, and Commission on the Environment — and plop them into the Administrative Code, removing them from the City Charter.

Another two bodies that are “*advisory*” bodies, not “*governance*” bodies, will also apparently be stripped of their code citations in the City Charter — the SFMTA Citizens Advisory Council (CAC), and PROSAC (the Parks, Recreation and Open Spaces Advisory Commission).

Just because the Public Works, Environment, and Sanitation and Streets bodies do **not** deal with public safety issues, does not mean that their governance functions should be placed at risk by moving them out of the Charter and into the Administrative Code.

If the goal is to protect the governance **functions** of “*governance*” bodies, they should **not** be taken out of the City Charter. Period. End of discussion.

This Streamlining Task Force should reject the City Administrator staff’s recommendation, and retain the Public Works, Streets and Sanitation, and Environment Commissions under their current “*establishing authority*” designation, keep them in the City Charter, and not move them into the Administrative Code!

Task Force Chair Ed Harrington cautioned the other four Task Force members on June 4 against “*dramatically altering the city’s commission structure.*” “*Prop. E*” was about streamlining, not radically overhauling, public governance. Putting these three Commission’s governance roles at risk by moving them into the Administrative Code must be stopped, precisely because this is certainly a very **radical** change to the City’s commission structure.

Sincerely,

September 12, 2025

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/s/

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cc: Rachel Alonso, Project Director, City Administrator's Office