

Patrick Monette-Shaw

975 Sutter Street, Apt. 6
San Francisco, CA 94109

September 13, 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

"\$33.9 million in costs of operating San Francisco's approximately 112 Board and Commission represents 0.213836% of the \$15.9 billion the City Budget!"

Re: **Budget and Legislative Analyst Costs for All 115 Boards and Commissions**

Dear Mr. Harrington and Commission Streamlining Task Force Members,

With release of the Board of Supervisors Budget and Legislative Analyst's (BLA) skimpy 15-page report, "*Board and Commission Annual Financial Cost Analysis*" (plus 23 pages of tables in Appendices) on September 1st to the "*Commission Streamlining Task Force*," San Franciscans have now learned that the probably over-estimated \$33.9 million in costs of operating San Francisco's approximately 112 Board and Commission policy bodies represents an infinitesimally small cost of City governance.

The \$33.9 million represents a mere two-tenths of one percent — yes, just 0.213836% — of the \$15.9 **billion** FY 2024–2025 City Budget. Efforts now underway to eliminate or combine Commissions represent penny wise, but pound foolish, quibbling.

Buried in the 38-page BLA analysis is an admission that even assuming many of the City's 112 boards and commissions might be eliminated or combined, it is highly unlikely that would save much of anything from the City budget, precisely because the \$22.6 million for part-time "*soft costs*" staff who perform other job duties and only contribute small fractions of their time supporting boards and commissions, won't be eliminated from the City's payroll, even if their governing board and commission is, in fact, eliminated. The BLA reported: "*Such positions are not likely to be deleted in the event of a board or commission elimination and thus would **not** represent hard savings for the City.*"

It appears the billionaire backers of "*Prop. D*" last November led by the Astroturf group "*TogetherSF Action*" and Kanishka Cheng had their panties in a knot over the paltry 0.213836% slice of the cost of City governance. The \$33.9 million for robust public oversight of City government is essentially chump change.

And now it's the "*Streamlining Task Force*" that appears to have *their* panties in a knot, quibbling over which boards and commissions to retain, combine, or eliminate — including PROSAC, which costs just \$25,110 annually (all of which are "*soft costs*" of part-time Park Department staff who will still keep their jobs performing other duties), which won't save the City one red cent, according to the BLA costs analysis. That \$25,110 is another laughably small, 0.000157925% of the \$15.9 billion City's annual budget. Yes, just **sixteen hundred-thousandths of one percent!** The quibbling rages on.

Sincerely,

/s/

Patrick Monette-Shaw

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

