

Patrick Monette-Shaw

975 Sutter Street, Apt. 6
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

“Stripping Commission involvement in nominating short-lists for department head hiring recommendations is wrong, and ultimately counter productive.”

Re: **Multiple Recommendations Changing Department Head Hiring “Short List” Recommendations**

Dear Mr. Harrington and Commission Streamlining Task Force Members,

When this Task Force began hearing specific body-by-body recommendations of whether to eliminate, retain, or combine each of the 115 Boards and Commissions, the Task Force voted on September 3 to recommend stripping both the Police and Fire Commissions from being able to create a short-list of three-nominees to become their next Department Heads, and hand the Mayor sole authority over who he chooses to run both departments.

The Task Force is insisting both Commissions be forced to “align” to the Task Force’s templates and be reduced to “consultative responsibilities” only over who becomes their respective Department Heads.

On September 17, this Task Forces is hearing recommendations for 20 bodies in the infrastructure and transportation policy category, and has recommended that an additional seven bodies — including the Treasure Island Development Authority, Department of Public Works, Environment Department, Municipal Transportation Agency, Port Authority, Public Utilities Department, and Recreation and Parks Department — all be stripped of meaningful input into department head identification and selection decisions, and be reduced to having “consultative responsibilities” only.

Several of these Commissions overseeing these seven City Departments that currently produce a short list of three candidates for the Mayor to choose from will lose their ability to identify viable candidates, without any definition of what the vague clause “consultative responsibilities” even means and whether the bodies will have any a real role in choosing their respective department heads.

Absent any guarantees a given Mayor will engage with any Commission in a consultative, or bicameral-like, manner between the legislative and executive branches, let alone consultatively with any specific Governance Commission to preserve checks-and-balances governance, this Task Force should reject these department head hiring recommendations.

This is one of the main reasons voters rejected “Prop. D” at the ballot box last November! The “Prop. D” ballot measure was designed to hand more power to a “strong mayor” form of government by eliminating citizen input into department head recommendations.

This “Prop. E” Streamlining Task Force seems to have forgotten that “Prop. D” was rejected by the voters, in part because of removing Board and Commission involvement in Department Head hiring and firing decisions!

Sincerely,

/s/
Patrick Monette-Shaw

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