

From: [Michael Pappas](#)
To: [commissionstreamlining](#)
Cc: [Alonso, Rachel \(ADM\)](#)
Subject: A perspective for consideration...
Date: Tuesday, September 23, 2025 10:44:32 AM

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

Dear Members of the Commission Streamlining Taskforce,

My name is Michael Pappas and I write to you as Executive Director of the San Francisco Interfaith Council and a former SF Human Rights Commissioner (2011-2017). I realize that in these challenging economic times and for the purpose of efficiency, consolidation of commissions might be necessary if not essential. When deliberating on the consolidation of the Human Rights Commission and Immigrant Rights Commission, I would respectfully ask that certain sensitivities be taken into consideration:

- I am encouraged by the Mayor's wisdom in appointing Mawuli Tugbenyoh as Executive Director of the San Francisco Human Rights Commission. I have no doubt that he will navigate the Commission back to the work of its intended charge and mandate. The reality is, since 2017, the two chartered community advisory committees under its purview, the Equity Advisory Committee and LGBT Advisory Committee, have been dormant and inactive. Under previous leadership those committees were robust. They followed strict protocols for recruiting, vetting, interviewing and selecting community leaders to comprise those bodies, as well as processes for identifying internal workgroups and work plans to shine a light on key issues and make recommendations to the broader HRC, Board of Supervisor and Mayor to advance the needs of those two vulnerable communities in our City. Until the new director gets his bearings and gives attention, additional staff and resources to recalibrating this key function of the HRC, I fear that adding an additional aspect and committee, foreign to the present culture of the HRC, at this time, would tax HRC's capacity to meet the community's needs and result in further inaction of the charge it was given.

- Secondly, and perhaps more importantly, in the fragile moment in which we find ourselves, the Immigrant Rights Commission has never, in memory, played a more critical role in giving voice to and providing the broader community with resources, trainings and ways to connect in response to the current Federal administration's fear mongering, apprehension, detention and treatment of undocumented residents in our City. As the Executive Director of the San Francisco Interfaith Council, a nonprofit that, for 37 years, has been a portal through which its 800 communities of

faith and religious institutions have access to our civic officials and NGO partners, we partner with and rely upon the wisdom and voice of OCEIA and the City-sanctioned Immigrant Rights Commission to give guidance, direction and connection to City services and resources to our City's faith leaders and agencies on all things related to immigration. Like the many community organizations that meet regularly with the Mayor's staff to address and respond to the Trump administration's attack on immigrants and the nonprofits that serve them, we look to the Immigrant Rights Commission for leadership. This commission has truly risen to the occasion and been an asset to Mayor Lurie's administration. I fear that rolling it into another commission would not only send the wrong message as to the seriousness of intention being given to the needs of our vulnerable immigrant communities and those that serve them, but also leave the Office of Civic Engagement and Immigrant Affairs without the official-sanctioned public body needed to offer sustained representation and voice to an immigrant community living in fear and the nonprofits serving them that are likewise under attack.

I thank you for taking the time to give consideration to these perspectives and pray that they will be of benefit as you make informed judgments that will impact the well being of our City and those that look to City government for hope and support.

Michael G. Pappas, Executive Director
San Francisco Interfaith Council

--



Michael G. Pappas, M.Div
Executive Director

San Francisco Interfaith Council
Interfaith Center at the Presidio
P.O. Box 29055
San Francisco, CA 94129



415.474.1321 (Office)
mgpappas@sinterfaithcouncil.org
Website: sinterfaithcouncil.org
[Like the SFIC on Facebook](#)
[Follow the SFIC on Twitter](#)

CONFIDENTIALITY NOTICE: This message is intended only for the named recipient and it may contain information that is confidential. If you are not the named addressee, you should not disseminate, distribute or copy this communication. Please notify the sender immediately if you have mistakenly received this communication.