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September 30, 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

“ This Committee’s \$5,308 in costs represents just 0.00003338% of the \$15.9 billion City budget. Keep, don’t eliminate, this oversight Committee! ”

Re: Citizens' Committee on Community Development

Dear Chair Harrington and Commission Streamlining Task Force Members,

It is bad enough that there is not a full-fledge governance body having broad oversight of the Mayor’s Office of Housing and Community Development (MOHCD), given MOHCD’s remit and City Budget of \$171.5 million for the current Fiscal Year 2025–2026, and its proposed budget of \$192.9 million for Fiscal Year 2026–2027.

But to suggest eliminating the Citizens’ Committee on Community Development, which the Budget and Legislative Analysts report on the costs of San Francisco’s 112 Boards and Commissions indicates this Body costs just \$5,308 in total — all of which is “*soft-costs*” for part-time employees who will not lose their jobs or result in any hard cost savings for the City — is simply penny-wise, pound-foolish. The \$5,308 represents just 0.00003338% of the \$15.9 billion City budget for the current fiscal year. That’s a ridiculously small **thirty-three hundred-millionths of one percent!**

What’s more, the BLA’s Appendix 6 and Appendix 7 reports there would be no cost savings from either eliminating or combining this committee with any other Board of Commission.

The “Staff Discussion” reports on page 87 that it may be possible to substitute a different public participation process — such as public hearings hosted directly by MOHCD — so long as the U.S. Housing and Urban Development’s citizen participation requirements continue to be met, perhaps through **different** public hearings held by MOHCD. So far as is known, MOHCD has not held routine public hearings to receive community input on MOHCD’s overall funding allocations and policy matters that are directly related to community development efforts

Given that this Streamlining Task Force has not obtained an analysis from MOHCD about how MOHCD would amend its citizen participation plan to describe how the federally required public process will continue to ensure meaningful opportunities for resident input on the City’s use of HUD entitlement funds, this Streamlining Task Force should not vote to eliminate this body. Precisely because no such analysis has been prepared for your review, you should vote to retain this Committee!

This Citizens group has existed well for the past 16 years. Some members of this body are appointed by the Board of Supervisors.

This Streamlining Task force should realize that the potential costs for MOHCD to widely advertise alternate hearing venues could well surpass the \$5,308 this Citizen’s Committee now spends on just part-time soft-costs, and begin requiring new non-personnel advertising costs.

I will advocate with the Board of Supervisors to retain this body, if you recommend eliminating it!

Keep, don’t eliminate, this oversight Committee.

Sincerely,

/s/

Patrick Monette-Shaw

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