

September 30, 2025

Ed Harrington, Chair
Commission Streamlining Task Force
City Hall, Room 408
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place
San Francisco, CA 94103

Re: Historic Preservation Commission (Item 11 – Planning and Land Use Bodies)

San Francisco Heritage strongly opposes any consideration to eliminate the Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) or combine it with the Planning Commission.

Ironically, a key aspect in the conception of the Historic Preservation Commission in 2008 was to address the function of your task force: improving the administration of City government. Matters of historic preservation, historic designation, and proposed changes to properties listed in Article 10 and Article 11 of the city charter all require specialized expertise. Historic Preservation Commission meetings are very active, and agenda items receive a great deal of public input. To move these items to the Planning Commission, which already have meetings last six hours or more, would do the opposite of streamlining.

San Francisco was late to adopting a commission-level body for preservation, despite being as unique architecturally and culturally as New York (commission created in 1965), Chicago (1968), or Boston (1975). The commission's existence is key to our city's status as a Certified Local Government (CLG) through the National Historic Preservation Act, a status which has allowed our Planning Department to receive important funding over the past decades.

Lastly, with major changes coming with new state housing production laws and Mayor Lurie's Family Zoning Plan, the Historic Preservation Commission's work is likely to increase with additional landmark designations and land-use decisions involving preservation. Far from being a dormant or obsolete commission, its importance and necessity is only growing.

Sincerely,



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