

Commission Streamlining Task Force
City Hall, Room 362
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place
San Francisco, CA 94102

September 30, 2025

Re: Rent Board Commission recommendations

Dear Chair Harrington and members of the Commission Streamlining Task Force,

On behalf of the Chinatown Community Development Center (CCDC), we strongly oppose the proposed changes that would centralize authority over the Planning Commission with the Mayor, eliminate the Board of Supervisors' confirmation power, and dismantle vital commissions that represent our diverse communities. These proposals undermine the democratic process and threaten the integrity of community oversight in San Francisco's land-use, housing, and zoning decisions.

The current system, where both the Mayor and the President of the Board of Supervisors nominate Planning Commission members, subject to Board approval, is critical to ensuring that the diverse needs of the city's residents are represented. This system provides an important safeguard by allowing neighborhoods and residents to have a direct say in who makes key decisions on policies that affect their lives. Shifting to a mayoral only appointment process without Board confirmation would remove this crucial public oversight, undermining transparency and accountability.

This centralization of power risks diminishing the voices of low-income communities and communities of color, who are most impacted by land use and housing decisions. We must preserve a system that guarantees the Planning Commission is responsive to the city's diversity, ensuring marginalized communities have a seat at the table. Additionally, we strongly oppose the recommendation to merge the Historic Preservation Commission with the Planning Commission. These commissions require distinct expertise to address very different aspects of land-use policy. The unique knowledge and focus of each body must be maintained to preserve the integrity of San Francisco's cultural heritage and to make informed, effective decisions on housing and urban development.



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We are also opposed to the proposal to shift the Rent Board Commission's appellate function to the Board of Appeals or to a single citywide appeals board. The Rent Board Commission is specifically designed to ensure that both tenants and landlords are represented fairly in housing disputes. By removing the Rent Board's role in hearing appeals, we risk diminishing tenant protections and removing a key mechanism for addressing the unique housing issues in San Francisco.

These proposed changes would weaken the oversight, expertise, and accountability needed to protect and serve all of San Francisco's residents. We urge decision makers to reject these proposals and instead preserve a system of representation that reflects the city's values of equity, inclusivity, and community participation.