



October 2, 2025

Chair Ed Harrington and Members
Commission Streamlining Task Force
1 Dr Carlton B Goodlett Place
San Francisco, CA 94102
Emailed to: CommissionStreamlining@sfgov.org
CC: rachel.alonso@sfgov.org

Re: Recommendations to Strengthen the San Francisco Immigrant Rights Commission (IRC)

Dear Commission Streamlining Task Force Chair and Members,

On behalf of the Language Access Network of San Francisco (LANSF), we are writing to express our support in maintaining the independence of the Immigrant Rights Commission (IRC) and strengthening its role to better protect San Francisco's immigrant residents. LANSF is a multilingual, multiethnic, and multicultural network of local community-based organizations representing Arab, Latino, Black, AAPI, and other directly impacted communities that work together to close the language access gap across the city. Each organization has decades of experience working directly with impacted communities who are Limited English Proficient (LEP).

The Immigrant Rights Commission plays an important and unique role in advocating for the rights of San Francisco residents and workers for the past 28 years, and remains a strong voice that informs the Mayor and Board of Supervisors on policies and issues, in partnership with the Office of Civic Engagement and Immigrant Affairs (OCEIA) staff. The IRC established and cultivated trust between our immigrant communities and local government, sharing resources with newcomers, preserving culture, and evaluation of resource allocation that responds to the community needs and enhances civic participation.

LANSF has worked closely with the IRC to address and resolve language accessibility issues in the City, making history with language access rights by establishing the SF Language Access Ordinance (LAO) in 2001. Since then, the IRC has played an important role in overseeing implementation of the LAO and ensuring agencies comply with the law. Over the years, IRC has worked closely with immigrant communities, frequently meeting with and inviting community partners, such as LANSF, to provide updates and presentations on

immigrant's access to City's services, particularly regarding language and cultural barriers. Last year, we worked with the IRC to further expand and strengthen language rights for residents with Limited English Proficiency (LEP), thereby ensuring city agencies provide equal access to services, regardless of what language someone speaks. The IRC should also have the ability to evaluate the requirements of the LAO and include revisions to the LAO Policy and OCEIA's responsibilities.

Given the expansion of federal immigration enforcement, it is critical to have a commission that can amplify the needs of vulnerable communities and work with the city to provide effective services and protect its residents. We urge the Streamlining Task Force Commission to maintain the IRC as an independent commission and strengthen it by ensuring it receives the needed staffing and resources to deepen its impact in overseeing implementation of the LAO and to better meet the diverse, urgent needs of our immigrant communities.

We thank you and your staff for your consideration of this important issue.

Sincerely,

Chinese for Affirmative Action (CAA)

African Advocacy Network (AAN)

Arab Resources and Organizing Network (AROC)

Central American Resource Center San Francisco (CARECEN)

People Organizing to Demand Environmental and Economic Rights (PODER)

South of Market Community Action Network (SOMCAN)

Southeast Asian Development Center (SEADC)