

San Francisco Latino Parity and Equity Coalition (SFLPEC)

October 7th, 2025



Re: Support for the Immigrant Rights Commission – Commission Streamlining Project Team

Dear Members of the Commission Streamlining Project Team,

On behalf of the **San Francisco Latino Parity and Equity Coalition (SFLPEC)**—a coalition of 23 Latino-led organizations serving over 80,000 residents across San Francisco—we write to underscore the critical importance of preserving and strengthening the **Immigrant Rights Commission (IRC)** within the City's structure.

At a time when immigrant communities are facing increased scrutiny, displacement, and harmful rhetoric at the national level, San Francisco's role as a **Sanctuary City** must not only be symbolic—it must be actively upheld. The IRC serves as a vital mechanism for ensuring that our Sanctuary policies are implemented with integrity and that our City continues to protect the dignity, safety, and inclusion of all residents, regardless of immigration status.

The Immigrant Rights Commission is a cornerstone of accountability, providing oversight, community voice, and policy guidance to city departments and leaders. Its work helps ensure that local government decisions align with the values of equity, inclusion, and justice that San Francisco is known for. The Commission also acts as a bridge between communities and government—helping elevate the lived experiences of immigrants who contribute to our city's economy, culture, and neighborhoods, yet often face systemic barriers to participation and protection.

We strongly urge that the **Immigrant Rights Commission remain under the Office of Civic Engagement and Immigrant Affairs (OCEIA)** and continue to operate as an **independent body**. This structure is critical to preserving the Commission's ability to provide unbiased oversight and ensure citywide accountability to Sanctuary and immigrant inclusion policies. Any shift that weakens its independence or its alignment with OCEIA would compromise the very purpose of the Commission and risk silencing immigrant voices at a time when they most need to be heard.

As Latino-led and immigrant-serving organizations, we know firsthand that the visibility, voice, and advocacy of the IRC are not optional—they are essential. Our city needs a body that can examine how policies affect immigrant families, workers, and small business owners; that can hold departments accountable to Sanctuary and language access mandates; and that can ensure new policies, such as those emerging from Prop E's implementation, do not unintentionally harm the very residents San Francisco has pledged to protect.

We urge the Task Force to maintain and strengthen the role of the Immigrant Rights Commission as part of any streamlining efforts. Efficiency must never come at the expense of equity, accountability, or the protection of human rights. San Francisco's Sanctuary City commitment is only as strong as the structures we preserve to uphold it.

Thank you for your consideration and for your ongoing commitment to building a city where all residents—regardless of where they were born—can live, work, and thrive with dignity and safety.

Sincerely,

Lucia Obregon

Director

San Francisco Latino Parity and Equity Coalition