

From: [REDACTED]
To: [commissionstreamlining](#)
Subject: Support COSW an an Independent Governing Body under Charter of 1994
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TO: Commission Streamlining Task Force Members
FR: Sharon Johnson

SUBJECT: MAINTAIN THE COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN AS A GOVERNANCE BODY AS STATED IN THE CITY CHARTER OF 1994

Dear Commission Streamlining Task Force Members:

I write as a former Executive Director to the Commission on the Status of Women (1989-1994) appointed by then-Mayor Art Agnos.

HISTORY

In 1989, with the approval of then-Mayor Art Agnos, the Commission on the Status of Women was RESTORED as its own independent governance commission. His decision was based on the extensive report by a Task Force, which studied the value of such a commission representing the women of San Francisco.

The outcome of the study earned the support of then-Mayor Agnos and the Board of Supervisors to establish a 7 -board member commission with its own budget and a staff of four employees.

in 1994, the Board of Supervisors placed a Charter Amendment on the ballot to “Charter” the Commission as a full-fledge governing City Department. The Charter Amendment passed with 70% of SAN FRANCISCAN voters, who recognized that women’s official voice carried far, wide and deep in its protection of gender-based violence, sexual harassment, sexual assault, human trafficking and economic justice.

PURPOSE

What began as a small circle of determined women in 1975 grew into an organization that has changed countless lives. Their leadership has left a legacy of hope, stability, and opportunity that must continue to ripple through San Francisco and internationally.

You have received letters and will hear from speakers who will address the specific accomplishments of the Department on the Status of Women.

Their data will show how money is saved when preventive measures are in place for social and economic justice. We learn everyday through human behavior that, we, as women can never take equality and justice for granted. We know the struggles women before us endured, we

witnessed our reproductive rights erased, and we watch today our city considering erasing us without a full study, understanding of the Commission's importance.

You have the authority to recommend that the Commission on Status of Women **REGAIN AND REMAIN AS AN INDEPENDENT, GOVERNING BODY**. I would like to impress upon you the importance of continuing on with an independent governing women's City Department.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration.

Sharon Johnson
Executive Director (1989-1994)