



**Project Open Hand**  
meals with love

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To the Commission Streamlining Task Force:

On behalf of Project Open Hand I would like to express our opposition to the recommendation to either eliminate or combine the Food Security Task Force with HSA City Food Access Team. Project Open Hand has a long and deeply rooted history of serving nutrition-insecure populations, beginning in 1985 at the height of the HIV/AIDS epidemic. Founded to provide nutritious, home-delivered meals to individuals too ill to shop or cook for themselves, the organization quickly became a lifeline for people facing severe illness and food insecurity. Over the decades, Project Open Hand has expanded its mission to serve diverse communities experiencing health inequities, including those living with chronic conditions such as diabetes, heart disease, and cancer. Through our medically tailored meals and groceries, we address the intersection of nutrition and health, ensuring that individuals with limited access to nutritious food receive meals designed to support their medical and cultural needs. Our longstanding relationships with clients, healthcare providers, and community partners have given us deep insight into the barriers that nutrition-insecure populations face, allowing us to design and deliver programs that promote dignity, improve health outcomes, and advance health equity.

In reviewing the Commission's recommendation, there are some misconceptions and inaccuracies we would like to point out.

1. Another city department (CFAT) is already coordinating food security across departments. To our knowledge there is no other coordinating body of efforts in the city.
2. Community based organization (CBO) FSTF members having a "conflict of interest". While CBO members contribute to developing recommendations, these recommendations remain general in nature and are reviewed and approved by the full task force before being advanced. Moreover, CBO participants bring valuable, firsthand experience that provides essential context and ensures recommendations are both practical and relevant.
3. FSTF members having other "multiple pathways for engagement" with the city. It is unclear what those other pathways would be.
4. The FSTF no longer being the City's only space for cross-departmental coordination on food access programs, but rather City staff now playing this role.

We are deeply concerned that the recommendation to combine or eliminate this body would leave a gap in a key policy area impacting hundreds of thousands of San Franciscans and be detrimental to the City and County of San Francisco. The following essential functions would be lost:

1. A city body addressing food security – reducing visibility of the issue, removing city transparency and accountability for food security and an eliminating cross-sector coordination.
2. A centralized platform to address emerging issues and risks of the community.

3. Annual reports including current status of Food Security in SF, opportunities, threats and recommendations and regular updates to the Board of Supervisors and Mayor's Office. This information can be extremely useful when applying for and securing grant funding for essential programming.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter

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