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To: [commissionstreamlining](#)
Cc: [Rivas, Jorge \(ADM\)](#); [David Woo](#)
Subject: SOMA Pilipinas letter re the Immigrant Rights Commission
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Chair Harrington and Members of the Task Force,

SOMA Pilipinas, the Filipino Cultural Heritage District, asks that the Task Force retain the independence of the Immigrant Rights Commission (IRC) as it currently exists (do not merge the IRC into the Human Rights Commission), and to not implement a 3 year sunset date.

The IRC plays a vital role in San Francisco to protect, advance, and ensure the rights of immigrants in the City, and provides guidance to the City on issues impacting immigrants. Any changes to the IRC, including merging the IRC or implementing a sunset date, would be unconscionable during this time of unprecedented attacks on immigrants. Requiring advocates and commission members to make their case right now to avoid changes to this vital body already takes away resources, time, and energy from protecting immigrant communities against the ongoing attacks by ICE and the federal administration on our communities.

Merging the IRC into the HRC would weaken and dilute the IRC, exactly at a time when we should be strengthening bodies that represent our immigrant communities. Additionally, implementing the arbitrary 3 year sunset date to the IRC takes away time and resources that should be spent doing the work of serving our communities, instead of pleading the case as to why this critically important body should remain three years later.

The Task Force must leave the IRC as is, allowing it to continue the work to protect and advance the rights and well being of immigrants in the City.

Sincerely,

Raquel Redondiez
SOMA Pilipinas Director

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