

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [commissionstreamlining](#)  
**Subject:** PUBLIC COMMENT BY ART PERSYKO FOR 10/15/25 Commission Streamlining Task Force meeting AGENDA ITEM 6 & 7:  
**Date:** Wednesday, October 15, 2025 9:57:38 AM

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My name is Art Persyko, I am a San Francisco resident since 1978; and I am the convener of the California Alliance for Retired Americans in SF, AKA "CARA-SF" which advocates for all California elderly and disabled persons. I am also a member of the Long Term Services and Support for All Grassroots Coalition.

This SF Commission streamlining process and results of which we are thinking about and speculating about here today in SF are not in the interests of San Franciscans of all ages who have special needs that will not be met if every-day-San Franciscans and San Franciscans with experience and/or expertise with the problems that face San Francisco of all kinds cannot speak and be heard by our elected leaders.

The purpose of these SF commissions (including those focusing upon the elderly and disabled in SF and those who are homeless) is to provide transparency and allow PUBLIC input by San Francisco residents on the delivery of our public services. A requirement for that public input is that it must comply with requirements under the law and voting results by SF residents, and in particular for the elderly and disabled, the public input must comply with:

- A). the Older Americans Act and the legal intent of the
- B). Dignity Fund Proposition as created by Proposition E in 2016.

While the proposed changes to the commissions may meet the minimum legal requirements, they do not necessarily comply with the spirit of these commissions for public transparency and public input.

The proposed revisions won't save much money---just a few thousand dollars at most; and they may save just 9 hours a YEAR of the time for three senior staff to listen to input.

With these proposed changes, SF will be losing access to lots of expertise and public input by reducing the BOS appointments by 2/3 and having 3/4 of the new joint council appointed directly or indirectly by the Mayor's office.

So, I also stand in solidarity with the Coalition on Homelessness and other San Franciscans who object to this commission streamlining process and its results (which will have less input from homeless people and their advocates and consequently, not as well-informed decision-making by SF's elected leaders).

The overall impact of the proposed change is to reduce transparency and give the Mayor almost total (direct and indirect, via his appointment power) control of what should be public input, the lack of which will be harmful to the true purpose of the commissions by radically reducing or practically eliminating effective public input to them.

Combining or eliminating commissions for San Franciscans of all ages and diverse needs (in service to "efficiency") undermines democracy and diminishes San Francisco's ability to listen to, understand and act in an intelligent and humane way so our elected leaders can legislate in the interests of all San Franciscans, in all of our diversity.

I specifically and strongly oppose the elimination of the Long Term Care Coordinating Council; and recommend not combining or eliminating Dignity Fund Oversight & Advisory and Providers Working Groups, and the combining of the Disability & Aging Services Commission. (All of the aforementioned changes are listed under Ageda Item #6).

I also strongly oppose the elimination or combining of all the Homelessness Bodies (which are listed under Agenda Item #7).

I urge you to consider the negative consequences of a political stampede in the direction of reducing public input in the name of efficiency (which underlies and masks the perceived burden felt by elected officials who want to reduce the time and effort they currently must make to actually listen to their fellow citizens) but which "throws the baby out with the bathwater". It embraces a false economy which will ultimately hurt our most vulnerable fellow San Franciscans; it will cost us more in the long run to resolve the problems we create by ignorance (about the root causes of social problems and the appropriateness of any remedies proposed by government) which will be the result of an unseemly rush to reduce bureaucracy; and so these changes may well be against the interests of the common good of all San Franciscans.

Please think carefully about the impact of pushing for short-term gain on long-term results affecting the quality of life of all San Franciscans or the most vulnerable fellow citizens. We should not create a standard of making life easier for our elected officials (i.e. their public service which they sought) and their administrations, that may well incur the cost of worse long-term outcomes for the majority and/or the most vulnerable and/or least powerful San Franciscans.

Sincerely, Art Persyko, California Alliance for Retired Americans, San Francisco; and member of the Long Term Services and Supports for All Grassroots Coalition.