



October 13, 2025

San Francisco Commission Streamlining Task Force
City and County of San Francisco
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place
San Francisco, CA 94102

Dear Members of the Commission Streamlining Task Force:

I am writing in strong support of the San Francisco Youth Commission (SFYC). The SFYC plays a unique and vital role in providing a voice for an oft-overlooked and underrepresented group—our city's youth. I urge the Commission Streamlining Task Force to maintain the SFYC's institutional position and take all necessary steps to ensure that young people remain meaningfully represented in our city government.

The charge of the SFYC is distinctive in that it both provides representation for youth in the city and actively serves as a force to encourage civic engagement at an early age. Cynical political operatives point to the low rate of voter turnout among youth as justification for why they need not take young people seriously. Cynical youth point to the fact that politicians don't listen to them and ask why they should bother engaging. The SFYC is the institution that works against both of these corrosive narratives, creating a bridge between young people and their government while fostering the next generation of civic leaders.

In considering the future of city commissions, I respectfully urge the Task Force to:

- Maintain the SFYC as a chartered advisory commission.
- Remove the prohibition on prohibits youth commissioners receiving compensation for their public service to facilitate broader participation and support equity.
- Resist the temptation to add provisions that would sunset or otherwise limit the SFYC.

San Francisco has long prided itself on being a city that listens to all its residents. The Youth Commission embodies these principles by ensuring that young people—who are directly affected by decisions made today but often excluded from the decision-making process—have a seat at the table. Eliminating or weakening this body would send a troubling message about whose voices matter in our city.

Thank you for your consideration and for your service to San Francisco. I trust that you will recognize the invaluable contribution the Youth Commission makes to our city and preserve its role in our civic infrastructure.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Patrick J. Murphy".

Patrick J. Murphy
Professor, Faculty Director
Masters in Urban and Public Affairs
Masters in Public Administration

CC: SFYC