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Collaborative—Edge on the Square
Chinatown YMCA
Chinese Culture Center of San Francisco
Chinese for Affirmative Action
Chinese Historical Society of America
Chinese Newcomers Service Center
Chinese Progressive Association
Coalition for Community Safety and Justice
Community Youth Center
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Filipino Community Center
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Kai Ming Head Start
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Self-Help for the Elderly
SF Community Health Center
SF Hep B Free
Southeast Asian Community Center
Southeast Asian Development Center
West Bay Pilipino Multi-Service, Inc.
Wu Yee Children's Services

October 15, 2025

Chair Ed Harrington and Members
Commission Streamlining Task Force
City Hall, 1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place San Francisco, CA 94102
CommissionStreamlining@sfgov.org

Dear Commission Streamlining Task Force Members and Staff,

On behalf of the API Council, a coalition of 57 San Francisco nonprofits dedicated to building the voice, visibility, and reach of the Asian and Pacific Island (API) communities, I am writing to express our strong support for maintaining the Immigrant Rights Commission (IRC) as an independent body.

As outlined in the staff report, the IRC serves as the City's only dedicated forum for immigrant voices and language access. Its independence is needed to ensure that immigrant communities, many of whom face linguistic, cultural, and systemic barriers, have equitable representation in the City's policymaking and service delivery processes.

We recognize the Task Force's mandate under Proposition E to evaluate opportunities for improved efficiency through consolidation or restructuring. However, consolidating the IRC with another body would risk undermining its unique expertise, cultural competency, and trusted role as a bridge between immigrant communities and local government. The Commission's longstanding relationships with community-based organizations and its commitment to advancing immigrant equity are vital to ensuring accountability and transparency within City systems.

We also respectfully raise concerns about the proposed automatic three-year "sunset" review cycle for advisory bodies. While we support regular evaluation and accountability, the essential and ongoing nature of the IRC's work, particularly in areas such as public safety, health access, language access, and immigrant inclusion, necessitates stability and continuity. We encourage the Task Force to consider an alternative structure that maintains the IRC's independence and allows for periodic reviews without jeopardizing its existence or institutional knowledge.

The API Council stands firmly in the position that:

- The Immigrant Rights Commission must remain an independent body, consistent with staff recommendations.
- Any review mechanism should strengthen, not weaken, the City's commitment to immigrant equity and inclusion.

We appreciate the Task Force's dedication to transparent governance and community-informed decision-making and we thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Cally Wong", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Cally Wong
Executive Director, API Council
Cally.Wong@apicouncil.org