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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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October 15, 2025

Chair Ed Harrington and Members
Commission Streamlining Task Force
1 Dr Carlton B Goodlett Place
San Francisco, CA 94102

Emailed to: CommissionStreamlining@sfgov.org; CC: rachel.alonso@sfgov.org

Re: Recommendations to Strengthen the San Francisco Immigrant Rights Commission (IRC)

Dear Commission Streamlining Task Force Chair and Member,

The Immigrant Legal Resource Center (ILRC) strongly supports the San Francisco Immigrant Rights Commission (IRC) as an ongoing independent commission without any “sunset” term because it addresses an ongoing and urgent need for San Franciscans. For 28 years, the IRC has established and cultivated trust between our immigrant communities and local government, sharing resources with newcomers, preserving culture, enhancing civic participation, and evaluating resource allocation to respond to the community needs.

Founded in San Francisco in 1979, the ILRC is an organization that works with and educates immigrants, community organizations, and the legal sector to help build a democratic society that values diversity and the rights of all people. While the ILRC has expanded its work across the country, we are active locally as a member of the San Francisco Immigrant Legal Defense Collaborative. Our founder, Professor Bill Ong Hing, served as the chair of the IRC from April 2012 – 2015, and the ILRC continues to work with the commission, including recently speaking at a [special hearing in January 2025](#) on how to support the immigrant community at the start of this federal administration.

Immigrant residents represent a third of San Francisco’s population and call this city home. The IRC is the only dedicated City forum for immigrant rights and immigration issues and uplifts the voices and perspectives of the immigrant community to the Mayor and Board of Supervisors. The IRC is not only a vital resource for City leadership and San Franciscans but central to the City’s values of democracy and inclusion. In an increasingly extreme political climate where immigrants are facing traumatic arrests, family separations, and a complete deprivation of their constitutional rights, San Francisco should be maintaining and building infrastructure to represent and support our immigrant neighbors and their loved ones. For these reasons, the ILRC urges the Streamlining Task Force Commission to keep the IRC as an independent commission to properly serve the critical needs of our San Francisco immigrant community.

Sincerely,

Eric Cohen
Executive Director
Immigrant Legal Resource Center