



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](mailto:CommissionStreamlining@sfgov.org)

CC: [rachel.alonso@sfgov.org](mailto:rachel.alonso@sfgov.org)

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

Dear Commission Streamlining Task Force Chair and Members,

On behalf of the Interfaith Movement for Human Integrity (IM4HI), we are writing to express our support in maintaining the independence of the Immigrant Rights Commission (IRC) and strengthening its role to better protect San Francisco's immigrant residents. Interfaith Movement for Human Integrity (IM4HI), is a California Statewide organization of people of faith and congregations dedicated to faith and social justice. Through our work, we partner with faith communities and organizations to ensure that immigrants in California, regardless of their status, have access to dignity and due process. Furthermore we believe Sanctuary is a sacred tradition, rooted in love, protection for the vulnerable, compassion, and equality for all and it should be upheld by the law.

In a climate of heightened scrutiny, displacement, and harmful rhetoric toward immigrant communities, San Francisco must continue to stand firm as a Sanctuary City and lead by example. The IRC serves as a vital mechanism for ensuring that our Sanctuary policies are implemented with integrity and that our City continues to protect the dignity, safety, and inclusion of all residents, regardless of immigration status.

For the past 28 years, the Immigrant Rights Commission has played an important and unique role

in advocating for the rights of San Francisco residents and workers—many of whom are members of immigrant communities. The Commission serves as a cornerstone of accountability, offering oversight, community voice, and policy guidance to city departments and leaders. Its work helps ensure that local government decisions reflect San Francisco’s core values of equity, inclusion, and justice. Acting as a bridge between immigrant communities and government, the Commission amplifies the lived experiences of those who strengthen our city’s economy, culture, and neighborhoods, yet continue to face systemic barriers to full participation and protection.

We strongly urge that the **Immigrant Rights Commission remain under the Office of Civic Engagement and Immigrant Affairs (OCEIA) and continue to operate as an independent body**. This structure is critical to preserving the Commission’s ability to provide unbiased oversight and ensure citywide accountability to Sanctuary and immigrant inclusion policies. Any shift that weakens its independence or its alignment with OCEIA would compromise the very purpose of the Commission and risk silencing immigrant voices at a time when they most need to be heard.

We thank you and your staff for your consideration of this important issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rev. Deborah Lee".

Rev. Deborah Lee  
Co- Executive Director