

Member, Board of Supervisors
District 10



City and County of San Francisco

SHAMANN WALTON

October 15, 2025

TO: Commission Streamlining Task Force
Ed Harrington, Chair, Public Sector Labor Representative, BOS Designee
Andrea Bruss, Vice Chair, City Attorney's Office
Sophie Hayward, Member, City Administrator's Office
Natasha Mihal, Member, Controller's Office
Jean Fraser, Member, CEO of Presidio Trust/Mayor's Designee

RE: Opposing Most Recommendations to Alter the Youth Commission

Dear Members of the Commission Streamlining Task Force,

I am writing to express my opposition to the recommendations to alter or weaken the San Francisco Youth Commission. The Youth Commission is a vital and voter-mandated body that ensures young people have a formal voice in shaping the policies and budget priorities of our City. Undermining its structure would not only silence youth representation but also disregard the will of the voters who created it.

The Youth Commission has long served as a pathway for civic engagement and leadership development. My Chief of Staff, Natalie Gee, is a former Youth Commissioner, and it was through that experience that she became exposed to and engaged with City government, ultimately dedicating her career to community and public service. Our office has also had former interns who served as Youth Commissioners, and we always encourage young people in District 10 to apply and serve on the Commission. The Youth Commission has inspired and prepared countless young San Franciscans to lead with knowledge, compassion, and purpose.

Recommendation: Reduce from 17 to 15 seats (Both Mayoral Seats)

I strongly disagree with this recommendation. Removing a Mayoral seat, particularly one that represents underrepresented communities, would reduce opportunities for diverse youth voices to inform the Board of Supervisors on key issues. The Mayor's general seats also ensure that citywide perspectives are included in youth policy discussions. Every Youth Commission seat plays a role in ensuring equitable and inclusive representation and provides an opportunity for young people to learn and engage with city government.

Recommendation: Add 2-Term Limit

I believe a two-term limit is unnecessary, as the existing age limit already functions as a natural term limit. Most Youth Commissioners serve only a few years before aging out of eligibility or go into higher education between the ages 15-24. Imposing an additional term limit would diminish institutional knowledge and result in a less experienced Commission, ultimately

weakening youth engagement in government.

Recommendation: Move from Charter to Administrative Code

I strongly oppose this recommendation. The Youth Commission was established in the City Charter by a vote of the people in 1995. Moving it into the Administrative Code would undermine the democratic process by allowing future administrations or elected officials to alter or dissolve the Commission without voter approval. The Charter defines the structure of our government and the duties of its bodies, while the Administrative Code governs regulatory procedures. The Youth Commission's placement in the Charter reflects its essential role in our City's structure and should remain there.

Recommendation: Add 3-Year Sunset

I strongly oppose adding a sunset clause. The Youth Commission is a permanent institution that has demonstrated its value for decades. Placing an expiration date on the Commission would jeopardize a critical avenue for civic engagement and place it at risk of dissolution based on political changes. Other cities across the nation have modeled their own Youth Commissions after our very own Youth Commission.

Recommendation: Remove Prohibition on Stipends

I support this recommendation. Youth Commissioners dedicate significant time and energy to civic service, and stipends would increase accessibility for those who cannot afford to volunteer. Most, if not all Chartered Commissions other than the Youth Commission already receive a stipend.

At a time when civic participation and youth engagement are more important than ever, the City should be strengthening, not weakening, institutions that uplift young people's voices. The Youth Commission has been a cornerstone of inclusive governance in San Francisco and a model for how we cultivate future leaders from all communities.

For these reasons, I urge the Task Force to reject the proposed reductions and structural changes and to uphold the integrity of the San Francisco Youth Commission as established by the voters.

Thank you for your consideration,



Supervisor Shamann Walton
San Francisco Board of Supervisors, District 10