

From: [Crystal Van](#)
To: [commissionstreamlining](#)
Subject: Public Comment - Keep IRC Independent and Permanent
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Dear Members of the Streamlining Task Force Commission,

My name is Crystal Van and I am a Civic Engagement Senior Program Manager for Chinese For Affirmative Action (CAA), an active member of the Language Access Network of San Francisco (LANSF), and coordinator of the Immigrant Parent Voting Collaborative (IPVC).

San Francisco is one of the most linguistically diverse and culturally rich cities in the country, and home to immigrants who make up a one-third of its population. Immigrants are our workers, students, family, friends, and neighbors. The backbone of our community. Yet, they face heightened threats and attacks from the current federal administration, which has stoked harmful anti-immigrant rhetoric, separated families, and disrupted our economy. To ensure immigrant families are adequately protected, served, and engaged in our city, I implore the Streamlining Task Force Commission to keep the Immigrant Rights Commission (IRC) as an independent and permanent advisory body.

During my time at CAA, the IRC has been a champion in upholding and advancing the rights of San Francisco residents and workers. The IRC has consistently promoted policies, programs, and services that uplift immigrant families and their needs. As the coordinator of the Immigrant Parent Voting Collaborative, I witnessed firsthand how the IRC defended non-citizen voting rights when the ordinance was challenged in court. As a member of the San Francisco Language Access Network, we have also continuously partnered with the Commission to improve and streamline language access, ensuring that implementation and service are favorable to our most marginalized and vulnerable communities. More recently, in response to the unlawful arrest and detention of our immigrant and non-immigrant residents, the IRC demonstrated remarkable leadership in reinforcing San Francisco's Sanctuary City Ordinance. I attended multiple hearings with directly impacted immigrants, and we received vital information and a commitment to safeguarding our community members.

The IRC has been a significant advocate for the rights of San Franciscans for the past 28 years, informing city leaders, including the Mayor and Board of Supervisors on key immigrant issues. Given the current political climate, it's more important than ever to amplify the needs of vulnerable communities and collaborate with city leadership to deliver effective services and protect residents. Therefore, I urge the Streamlining Task Force Commission to preserve the IRC as an independent and permanent commission.

Thank you!

Warmest,
Crystal

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