

October 17, 2025

To: **Commission Streamlining Task Force**
City and County of San Francisco

From: Scott W. Walton

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Re: **Our City Our Home (OCOH) Oversight Committee**

Introduction: My name is Scott W. Walton

- San Francisco resident and voter for 36 years.
- Worked with services for people and families experiencing homelessness for 23 years.
- 19 of those years as an employee of the City of San Francisco.
- Post retirement, I was appointed to one of the Mayoral seats on OCOH Oversight Committee, service for more than 2 years.

Purpose of these comments/notes:

- I was at the 10/15/2025 meeting for several hours but could not remain until the discussion of Homelessness Bodies, including OCOH.
- I understand that the Commission voted to recommend the elimination of the OCOH Oversight Committee.
- I wanted to highlight important functions that should be assigned and continued by some other entity if the elimination recommendation is enacted.

Functions of OCOH that I think need to continue:

- The services of all homelessness related programs should be tracked and reported, including:
 - Numbers of individuals/families served.
 - Outputs and outcomes of those services.
 - Examples:
 - Numbers of people/families placed into house.
 - Housing stability – those who remain housed – from year to year.
 - Number of people/families assisted with prevention services
 - Outcomes of the prevention services provided – number of persons/families who remain housed following service.
 - Numbers of homeless and formerly homeless individuals/families who receive mental health/substance use services.
 - The numbers related to new program slots, beds, and housing units added each year.

- The numbers of program slots, beds, and housing units that were previously added but still receive City funding to continue operation.
- The portion of the outputs and outcomes specifically supported by the taxes that make up the OCOH funds – this is critical to report to San Francisco citizens and voters, and particularly those businesses that are taxed under the implementation of the OCOH Initiative.

Tracking allocations of homeless related service funding regarding specific program types and subpopulations:

- The OCOH legislation that was passed by San Francisco voters laid out allocations regarding how the funds should be allocated to specific types of services: permanent housing, mental health, homelessness prevention, and shelter and hygiene.
- The legislation also included allocations related to specific subpopulations: families, transitional aged youth, adults.
- There was also direction to review allocation based on other subpopulations such as race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, etc.
- The legislation allows the Board to make temporary adjustments to the allocation amounts.
- It is very important that going forward, tracking, review and assessment of actual allocations be tracked and reported. This should be compared to the needs assessment.

Needs assessment regarding San Francisco homelessness, City and County of San Francisco programs/responses, and assessments of subpopulations.

- This assessment was not limited to programs supported with OCOH Initiative generate funds.
- This type of City-wide assessment is critical to support and track the allocations of funding and access to services.
- Such a review (in OCOH legislation required every three years) needs to include:
 - Identity of current successes:
 - Numbers placed and served each year.
 - Numbers related to outcomes for those people/families served.
 - Numbers and demographics for the point-in-time individuals/families that are currently experiencing homelessness.
 - Report and identify known factors of people/families entering homelessness (including demographics and, when known, factors involved with becoming homeless).
 - Comparison of in-flow (people/families becoming homeless) and out-flow (those being placed in permanent solutions).
 - Numbers and costs related to the individuals/families placed into permanent solutions where they and/or the placement programs need ongoing City funding to maintain the solution.
 - This is a critical factor that needs to be reported to San Francisco citizens and businesses. Often people think a placement is a “One and Done” expense.

Whether the OCOH Oversight Committee continues or is eliminated, these are very important efforts that need to continue and improve. These are factors of my services and an Oversight Committee appointee that seem to me to be the most important.

Thank you to the Commission Streamlining Task Force members and City staff supporting this work. This process is extremely detailed and challenging. I was impressed with the efforts of support staff and the attention to details that the Task Force members are putting into this work.

Sincerely,

Scott W. Walton

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