

From: [Connected SF](#)
To: [commissionstreamlining](#)
Cc: [Hall, Chelsea \(ADM\)](#)
Subject: Recommendation to Retain Building Inspection Commission as a Governance Body
Date: Tuesday, December 2, 2025 12:02:35 PM
Attachments: [image.png](#)

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.



To the Streamlining Task Force,

Thank you for the thoughtful work you're doing to create consistency, clarity, and efficiency in the City's oversight structure. We're writing specifically about the Building Inspection Commission (BIC) and to **urge that it be retained as a governance body with a refined scope.**

The work of DBI involves sophisticated technical, legal, engineering, and safety considerations. It is essential that the commission overseeing this department is composed of individuals with real, hands-on, domain-specific knowledge — structural engineers, architects, builders, lawyers and other professionals who understand the practical implications of code decisions and the real-world impact on public safety.

Commissioners in this space should possess a deep technical literacy gained by actually working in the field; they must be able to meaningfully analyze code implications, anticipate safety concerns, identify technical risks, and bring forward insights that only come from long-standing professional practice.

To ensure true expertise-based governance, we recommend:

-

The BIC remain a governance commission, not downgraded to an advisory role.

Commissioners be required to possess relevant technical or professional qualifications, ensuring that the body is not symbolic but substantively competent.

- **The BIC continue to nominate qualified candidates for DBI Director**, reflecting its deep knowledge of the technical skill set and leadership experience required for the role.
- **The Mayor retain sole authority to hire and remove the Director** of DBI -ensuring ultimate accountability remains with the executive.

This approach preserves subject-matter expertise at the commission level while aligning with the streamlined governance principles that hiring and firing authority for department heads belongs to the Mayor.

Keeping the commission structurally relevant while clarifying the appointment mechanics ensures:

- Real technical oversight
- Professional-standard review of DBI operations
- Public accountability
- Clear administrative authority
- Transparent chain of responsibility

In short:

Let the commission be the experts. Let the Mayor be the executive authority.

Thank you for your consideration and for your continued work in refining an oversight system that actually works for the people of San Francisco.

Thank you,

Tiffany Waugh

Chief of Staff

