

San Francisco's Juvenile Justice Providers Association

Bay Area Community
Resources

BMAGIC and
Mo'MAGIC

CARECEN

Center on Juvenile and
Criminal Justice

Community Works
West

Community Youth
Center

Fresh Lifelines for
Youth

HOMEY

Huckleberry Youth
Programs

Instituto Familiar de la
Raza

Larkin Street Youth
Services

Mission Language and
Vocational School

Mission Neighborhood
Centers, Inc.

Occupational Therapy
Training Program
San Francisco

Roadmap to Peace
Initiative

San Francisco CASA

San Francisco Pretrial
Diversion Project

Sunset Youth Services

The Beat Within

The San Francisco
Brown Bombers

Turntable

United Playaz

Young Community
Developers, Inc.

Young Women's
Freedom Center

Youth Law Center

December 3, 2025

Commissioner Ed Harrington
Chair, Commission Streamlining Task Force
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, Room 362
San Francisco, CA 94102

Submitted via email to CommissionStreamlining@sfgov.org

Re: Preserving the OAC, SPWG, Youth Commission, and Juvenile Probation Commission

Dear Chair Harrington and Members of the Task Force,

On behalf of the Juvenile Justice Providers Association (JJPA), a coalition of more than twenty-five community-based organizations serving justice-impacted youth and families throughout San Francisco, we urge the Commission Streamlining Task Force to preserve the independent governance authority of the Office of Children and Families Oversight and Advisory Committee (OAC), the Service Providers Working Group (SPWG), the Youth Commission, and the Juvenile Probation Commission (JPC). Each plays an essential role in centering youth voice, ensuring public transparency, and holding our city accountable to its commitments for safety, equity, and justice.

San Francisco's youth-serving infrastructure is unique because these bodies create direct channels between residents and decision-makers. They guarantee that public investments reflect the needs of children, families, and the community-based organizations (CBOs) that serve them. Weakening any of these commissions would undermine hard-won progress toward a more equitable, transparent, and accountable system for youth.

Preserving the Juvenile Probation Commission (JPC)

The JPC was established in 1989 to oversee California's only stand-alone Juvenile Probation Department. Its governance authority has been vital to San Francisco's successful transition to the new Secure Youth Treatment Facility (SYTF) model, closing the Log Cabin Ranch, and repurposing the Juvenile Justice Center for more rehabilitative care. In recent years, the Commission's oversight has been instrumental to reducing youth detention rates, resolving to keep youth from being transferred to the adult system, and to ensuring public accountability for the services that support youth reentry.

The Task Force's current recommendations - including making the Commission subject to at-will removal by the Mayor, adding term limits that threaten continuity, and removing the Commission's long-standing authority to appoint and oversee the Chief Juvenile Probation Officer - would fundamentally weaken independent oversight. By stripping the JPC of these powers, San Francisco would risk returning to an era of less transparency and greater political influence in the management of youth justice.

For providers like those in the JJPA, the JPC's monthly meetings serve as a lifeline for communication and collaboration with the Juvenile Probation Department. They allow us to raise concerns, share data, and help shape solutions in real time. Our collective experience - from case management to diversion, education, and reentry - is only reflected in policy because of the Commission's ability to govern and to hold public hearings that invite community voice.

Youth Commission, OAC, and SPWG

Similarly, the Youth Commission, the Office of Children and Families Oversight and Advisory Committee (OAC), and the Service Providers Working Group (SPWG) each embody San Francisco's commitment to inclusive governance. The Youth Commission ensures young people - especially those impacted by inequity and justice systems - can shape city policy firsthand. The OAC and SPWG ensure that the City's investments through the Children and Youth Fund remain transparent, community-driven, and responsive to needs on the ground. Removing these bodies from the City Charter would not "streamline" government - it would silence the public and weaken the mechanisms that ensure our youth are seen and heard.

Our Request

We urge the Commission Streamlining Task Force to maintain the governance status and charter protection of the JPC, Youth Commission, OAC, and SPWG. These bodies represent the voice of the public in systems that too often exclude those most impacted. Any reform that diminishes their independence or authority will come at the expense of youth wellbeing, public trust, and effective government.

We thank the Task Force for its attention to these concerns and stand ready to work collaboratively to strengthen public engagement and accountability - not diminish it.

Sincerely,

Dinky Manek Enty

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