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December 11, 2025

Re: Juvenile Probation Commission

To the Members of the Commission Streamlining Task Force:

On behalf of the San Francisco City and County's Juvenile Probation Commission, we urge the Commission Streamlining Task Force to preserve the Juvenile Probation Commission in the city's charter and remove your recommendation that Juvenile Probation Commission members are subject to "at-will" removal by the Mayor.

The San Francisco Juvenile Probation Commission represents over 350 young people and their families on probation, 175+ staff employed by the Juvenile Probation Department, and a coalition of more than twenty-five community-based organizations serving justice-impacted youth and families through the San Francisco Juvenile Justice Providers Association. We were established in 1989 to oversee California's only stand-alone Juvenile Probation Department. In recent years, the Commission's oversight has been instrumental to ensuring public accountability around reducing youth detention rates and keeping youth from being transferred to the adult system. Our 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.

Unless it is the intent of the Streamlining Task Force to enact a policy that degrades the importance of the Juvenile Probation Commission's commitment to holding our city accountable to achieving safety, equity, and justice for our younger residents, we do not understand, nor support, the rationale for removing our commission from the charter and requiring members to serve "at-will" of the Mayor. Our commission exists precisely because voters believe that youth justice issues are foundational to San Francisco's identity and have consistently voted to support our work.

In collaboration with our community partners, the Juvenile Probation Commission centers the voices of youth and families regarding their re-entry from the justice system. Weakening the authority of our commission by removing it from the city's charter and changing membership status to "at-will" based on the Mayor's discretion would undermine hard-won progress toward a more equitable, transparent, and accountable system for our community. As it stands today, our commission maintains an independent voice from potential Mayoral influence, thereby

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increasing trust from the community who are encouraged to provide more meaningful and honest feedback to our department and the Mayor's Office.

San Francisco must protect the structures that protect its people. We urge the Commission Streamlining Task Force to maintain the governance status and charter protection of the San Francisco Juvenile Probation Commission. Please reconsider your decisions regarding changes to the structure and importance of the San Francisco Juvenile Probation Commission so that we can continue to represent the voices of the public within our local justice system. Any reform that diminishes our 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.

Sincerely,
Members of the Juvenile Probation Commission