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December 17, 2025

Ed Harrington, Chair
Commission Streamlining Task Force
c/o City Administrator's Office
City Hall, Room 316
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place
San Francisco, CA 94102-4694

Re: **Eliminating Short Lists for Department Head
Hiring Recommendations**

Dear Chair Harrington and Commission Streamlining Task Force,

When SPUR published its "*Designed to Serve*" report, it whined that the Mayor's choices for hiring City Department Heads "*is constrained by a shortlist* [of qualified candidates] *selected by a commission or must be confirmed by the Board of Supervisors.*" SPUR essentially barked an order to this Commission Streamlining Task Force to fix the problem of qualified candidate shortlists for Department Head hiring and firing authority to a "*strong mayor*" form of City government.

This Task Force has done just that. When you began your body-by-body deliberations and decision-making in September grouped by policy area topics, only once or twice did the support staff or members of this Task Force ever mention or discuss leaving boards and commissions with their authority to submit short lists of three qualified nominees for department head hiring.

Now, your draft "*Final Report*" reveals for the first time that this Task Force has played obedient lap dog to SPUR, and we clearly see now that this Task Force is recommending as part of your final report stripping 21 boards and commissions from being able to nominate candidates using short lists. And separately, you have stripped 24 boards and commissions from their authority to hire and fire their department heads. |

You must overturn these decisions and restore the ability of commissions to participate in hiring and firing decisions of their department heads using short lists.

Otherwise, you run the risk of voters rejecting any charter change ballot measure you place on the ballot!

Sincerely,

/s/

Patrick Monette-Shaw

cc: Rachel Alonso, Project Director, City Administrator's Office