

Good afternoon, I am here today to make a comment regarding the recommendation this Task Force has received to eliminate the "Housing Stability Fund Oversight Board" based solely on generic inactivity criteria and not on its own purpose and importance to the public.

The Housing Stability Fund was established to utilize revenue from Prop I for the purpose of Covid Rent Relief AND the creation of Social Housing Developments. San Franciscans voted overwhelmingly in favor of this source of revenue being generated. Not only were we specifically assured, in both Resolution No. 365-20 and Ordinance No. 233-20, that funds would be allocated for these express purposes, but ALSO that this Oversight Board would, quote "exist indefinitely" as stated in SEC 5.45-6.

Since the initial creation of this Board and Fund, the Mayor's Office and the Board of Supervisors have been remiss in their duty, both to allocate this revenue from the General Fund AND to appoint the appropriate selections to this Oversight Board. This failure to follow through on policy is simply NOT an acceptable justification for the dismantling of this infrastructure due to "inactivity". We do not want this function and purpose to be absorbed by the already neglectful Mayor's Office, which has allowed this Fund and Board to wither.

We want PUBLIC SOCIAL HOUSING, the people of this city are sick of being left to the mercy of the private sector, while our government continues to subsidize and benefit private housing over people. Affordable Housing is no longer a viable concept in a market that only goes up, we NEED our government to manage an appropriate supply of stabilized housing, the same way we need it to protect our clean water.

SOCIAL HOUSING is a real solution to this crisis; it was enshrined in our legislation because it is an honest reflection of our desire to build a functional city for generations to come. We NEED a way to make our collective will into tangible results; we NEED this Oversight Board. If the Board's seats were filled, as described in the ordinance, then it would again act as a vehicle for those in the community to participate in the process.

As you carry out your essential work of streamlining our city's functions, we ask that you PLEASE do not remove this vital piece of our infrastructure, which is OUR avenue of access. ESPECIALLY NOW, at a time when the federal government is ripping away our social safety nets. We need to preserve this local SOCIAL HOUSING initiative and strengthen it, not toss it away.

I ask you to look past your criteria, and instead at the true purpose of this Oversight Board and the value that it has moving forward. Housing Stability was specifically highlighted for a reason, and this Oversight Board should be left in place for the benefit of the community as we continue to combat the growing housing crisis.