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January 27, 2026

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: **Malfeasance Regarding Ethics Commission Ballot Measure Authority**

Dear Chair Harrington and Commission Streamlining Task Force,

During the Streamlining Task Force's January 21, 2026 meeting, Streamlining Task Force members engaged in what appears to observers to be an intentional wrongful act, misusing your powers as appointed public officials in authority.

Chair Harrington had requested on January 14 that the Ethics Commission submit an alternative revised proposal for Ethics Commission ballot measures to the Streamlining Task Force at its next meeting on January 21. City Attorney staff asserted they had met with Ethics Commission staff at least once, but perhaps more times between January 14 and January 20, to develop an alternate proposal in coordination between the two departments. After collaborating to write the alternative proposal presented on January 21 by the City Attorney's staff, the revised proposal ostensibly agreed to by both departments in advance clearly stated that the Board of Supervisors could **not** vote to reject a proposed Ballot measure submitted for review by the Ethics Commission, and the Board of Supervisors could only vote to approve or amend a measure Ethics had written, but could not **reject** it.

Despite the collaboration to write the alternative proposal Chair Harrington had asked for and the City Attorney had agreed to, during the January 21 meeting, three members of the Task Force — Task Force members Kittler, Bruss, and Hayward — insisted on altering the collaborative proposal to allow the Board of Supervisors to completely reject outright a proposed ballot measure, and voted to do so. Task Force members Harrington and Mihal rightly voted against doing so.

To observers present, that sudden departure from the revised proposal prepared in advance of the January 21 meeting appears to have caught the Ethics Commission staff, and members of the public, off guard.

It appears unlikely that Streamlining Task Force staff or members had ***not*** attended the meeting(s) to develop a revised proposal from Ethics, given the short deadline the Task Force was facing to finish your decision-making by January 28.

Of note, "*California Common Cause*" submitted the names of 128 people who had signed a petition urging this Task Force to retain the independence of the Ethics Commission to place ballot measures on the ballot, **without** interference by the Board of Supervisors, who certainly should ***not*** be granted authority to have "*the last word*" to outright reject placing an Ethics Commission ballot measure before voters.

As the "*California Clean Money Campaign*" stated in written testimony it submitted prior to your January 21 vote, "*We join California Common Cause and the League of Women Voters of San Francisco in strong opposition to the proposed changes to the Ethics Commission's ballot-placement authority in Agenda Item #4, which would effectively give the Board of Supervisors veto power over any measure the Ethics Commission proposes*."

This Streamlining Task Force must immediately rescind your January 21 vote! This Task Force must protect the integrity of San Francisco's voter-approved ethics framework by rejecting your decision to allow the Board of Supervisors to reject Ethic Commission proposed ballot measures, and instead adopt a version consistent with the Ethics Commission's compromise proposal that you wrongly tinkered with on January 21.

If you don't revisit this misguided decision, the 128 people who signed the petition will join with others and reject your Charter change ballot measure in the November 2026 election. You've been warned!

Don't forget: In our democracy **"*We the People*" will get the final word, one way or another — whether this Streamlining Task Force likes it, or not!**

Respectfully submitted,

/s/
Patrick Monette-Shaw
Columnist/Reporter
Westside Observer Newspaper

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