



February 10, 2026 – **DRAFT VERSION**

President Rafael Mandelman and Honorable Members of the Board of Supervisors
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place
City Hall, Room 244
San Francisco, CA 94102

Subject: Preserve the Name “San Francisco Veterans Affairs Commission”

Dear President Mandelman and Members of the Board,

The Veterans Affairs Commission appreciates the work accomplished by the Streamlining Task Force on behalf of San Francisco voters. We are grateful for its recommendation to retain our body as a policy advisory group and for most of the other recommendations put forth for our commission. However, we respectfully express concern regarding the one recommendation to remove “Commission” from our name and urge the Board to reject this change.

Since 1982, the name “San Francisco Veterans Affairs Commission” has represented continuity, accountability, and respect for veterans’ service. Renaming the body would sever that legacy and create confusion for veterans and families who rely on clear signals of advocacy and support. The term “Veterans Affairs Commission” is widely recognized, and it also aligns with other regional veterans commissions such as those in San Mateo, Santa Clara, and Alameda counties, reinforcing consistency across the Bay Area.

San Francisco values institutions that honor service and uphold public accountability. Preserving the name “San Francisco Veterans Affairs Commission” is a simple, meaningful way to maintain that trust and respect. We ask the Board to maintain the official name and affirm its historical continuity dating to 1982.

Commission Vice-President Hanley Chan is available to further explain our concerns regarding the proposed name change and its implications for preserving the commission’s legacy.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

William Barnickel
President
San Francisco Veterans Affairs Commission