

Summary of Harrington & Fraser Proposals for Governance Commissions
Task Force on Streamlining Commissions
May 21, 2025

Category	Fraser Proposal	Harrington Proposal
Why have a Governance Commission?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enable department to operate nimbly • Support long-term focus, planning & execution or work • Separate operations from political influence 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mayor cannot effectively oversee all departments • Provide intermediaries for management and oversight • Give public insight/input into decision-making • Promote accountability, transparency, and responsiveness • Contribute independent expertise
Required Focus	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Service optimization for users • Revenue generation for the City • Integrity of operations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oversight and accountability • Transparency and public trust • Meaningful public participation
Key Responsibilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hire & fire CEO/General Manager/Exec Director * Ensure high performance • Approve major decisions • Ensure operational integrity • Shield staff from political interference • Function like a nonprofit or private-sector board 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recommend Dept Head hiring/removal (Mayor retains hire/fire authority) • Approve major decisions • Provide public insight and professional expertise
Structure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appointed by Mayor and Board of Supervisors (details TBD) • Terms set to outlast appointing officials for continuity • Max 5-7 members • Term limits, removal for cause or by vote of other members • Part-time & receive compensation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mayor typically appoints all members (exceptions might be Police, MTA, Planning). • Mayor can hire/fire with 2/3 veto by Board.
Level of Authority	Governing (direct managerial authority, strategic direction)	Mixture -- Advisory re Dept Head, all other authority vests in Commission
Emphasis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Efficient and effective service delivery • Financial performance • Insulation from politics 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Democratic accountability • Public involvement • Oversight and expertise