

**Section-by-Section Description of Partial Draft Charter Amendment for
Commission Streamlining Task Force – December 3, 2025**

Article XVII – definition of Advisory Body	Establishes a new definition of Advisory Body for clarity in the Charter.
Article XVII – definition of Commission	Establishes a new definition of Commission for clarity. Confirms existing advice that a decision-making body may be established only by the Charter, by ordinance, by MTA Board resolution, or by state or federal law. Notes that all bodies in the Charter are Commissions unless otherwise provided in a specific section.
Article IV title	Deletes the word “Board”—in this title and in several other section titles in Article IV—in light of the new definition of Commission.
4.100	Adds reference to newly defined Commission.
4.101 Title	Replaces “Boards and Commissions” with Commissions and Advisory Bodies.
4.101(a)-(c)	Adds references to newly defined Commission and Advisory Body. In subsection (a), replaces “Board of Supervisors” to clarify that other City bodies (i.e., the SFMTA Board) may enact legislative acts. In subsection (b), clarifies that service on an Advisory Body is not an “office.”
4.100(d)	Removes reference to Commission on the Status of Women because it will be moved from the Charter into the Administrative Code. The Board of Supervisors may assign the task to COSW or DOSW going forward. Adds references to newly defined Commission and Advisory Body.
4.101(e)	Adds reference to newly defined Commission and Advisory Body. Replaces “Charter or ordinance” with “law” to reflect that Commissions and Advisory Bodies may be established other than in the Charter or an ordinance.
Deleted 4.101(f)	Removes outdated transition provision from the 1996 Charter. We will add a new transition provision in the Charter amendment.
New 4.101(f)	Adds a default rule that appointing authorities may remove their appointees without cause, unless the Charter or an ordinance provides otherwise.
4.101.1	Adds references to newly defined Commission, extends the rule to non-Charter Commissions, and removes gendered language.
4.101.5	Applies the holdover rule to all Commissions, not just Charter commissions, but maintains the existing exceptions for members of Article V and Article XII commissions. Consolidates subsections (a) and (b). Removes gendered terms and outdated transition provision. Removes the hyphen in “reappointed.”
4.101.6	Adds new section to set default rules for term limits in Commissions.

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4.101.6(a)	Establishes rules for terms and term limits for all Commissions, not just those in the Charter. Allows exceptions for specific bodies in the Charter and for bodies established by ordinance or by the SFMTA Board. Four-year terms with a lifetime term limit of three terms on a single body.
4.101.6(b)	Establishes a rounding-up rule for partial terms of more than two years. Service during a term on January 1, 2027 counts as a full term even if the member does not serve more than two years of the term.
4.101.6(c)	Provides that terms completed before January 1, 2027 do not count toward the lifetime term limit.
4.101.6(d)	Clarifies that the term limits don't apply to ex officio members or members serving in a seat designated for a City employee or officer.
4.101.6(e)	Placeholder to address transition to staggered terms.
4.102 - intro	Adds reference to newly defined Commission.
4.102(1)	Remains the same – authority to establish policies for departments. Removes “through the adoption of City legislation” because City policy is sometimes established in other ways.
Deleted 4.102(2)	Removes requirement for annual statement of purpose.
Renumbered 4.102(2)	Remains the same – authority to approve department budgets – but removes “on behalf of the executive branch” because the Mayor introduces the entire City budget.
4.102(4)	This subsection is moved below for clarity – out of the “shall” portion of section 4.102 (which lists mandatory duties) into the “may” portion (which lists optional duties).
4.102(5)	Removes power to submit three department head nominees to the Mayor.
4.102(6)	Removes power to remove a department head.
4.102(7)	This subsection is moved below for clarify – out of the “shall” portion of section 4.102 (which lists mandatory duties) into the “may” portion (which lists optional duties).
4.102(8)	Newly renumbered as 4.102(4). Remains the same – commissions must perform other duties prescribed by ordinance. Replaces “by the Board of Supervisors” with “by ordinance” because the Board can only impose a duty by ordinance.
4.102(9)	Removes the obligation to appoint a secretary.

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New 4.102(5)	This is section 4.102(4) renumbered because it is moved from the “shall” section to the “may” section. Also removed the extraneous term “with respect to appropriate items.” Otherwise remains the same – authority to recommend rates and fees to the Board of Supervisors.
New 4.102(6)	This is section 4.102(5) renumbered because it is moved from the “shall” section to the “may” section. Otherwise remains the same – authority to conduct investigations.
New 4.102(7)	Authorizes a commission to make recommendations to the Mayor in its discretion about appointment or removal of a department head.
4.102(10), renumbered as 4.102(8)	Remains the same – authority to hold hearings and take testimony.
4.102(11)	Deleted to remove outdated process that is inconsistent with Section 6.102.
4.102 – closing	Non-interference provision. Remains the substantively the same. Adds references to newly defined Commission, and removes gendered language.
4.103	Deletes annual report requirement.
4.104(a)	Adds references to newly defined Commission. Removes requirement for rules and regulations to be filed with the Clerk of the Board. Removes extraneous “of the Board of Supervisors” clause.
4.104(b)	Adds references to newly defined Commission. Modifies sentence regarding vote thresholds, which is ambiguous and has caused some confusion in the past. (For clarity, we recommend a corresponding deletion of the same sentence in section 2.105, which applies to the Board of Supervisors.) Adds a clarifying statement that commissioners are not required to vote if they are legally prohibited because of a conflict. This is consistent with past advice but it has not been explicit in the Charter.
4.104(c)	Adds reference to newly defined Commission.
3.100(10)	Adds reference to newly defined Commission. Clarifies that the Mayor has a nonvoting seat on any commission with a majority of seats appointed by the Mayor.
3.100(12)	Adds reference to newly defined Commission. Modifies gendered language.
3.100(18)	Adds reference to newly defined Commission; adds “in this Charter” to reflect past interpretations.
3.100(19)	Adds as a default the Mayor’s power to remove department heads, to align with removal of commission removal authority.

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4.105 – First paragraph	<p>Modifies appointment rules: the Mayor appoints four members, and the Board President nominates three members subject to approval by the Board.</p> <p>Removes unnecessary reference to Section 4.101, which already applies to all appointments.</p> <p>Removes unnecessary reference to filling vacancies, which already applies under Section 4.101.</p>
4.105 – Second paragraph	Deletes deadlines for Board approval of Mayor’s appointments. Retains those deadlines for President’s appointments.
4.105 – Third paragraph	Removes official misconduct; members may be removed by their appointing authority without cause.
4.105 – Fourth paragraph	Deletes old transition language regarding staggering of terms. We will prepare a transition provision in the Charter amendment to clarify that current terms will continue.
4.105 – Fifth paragraph	Deletes language requiring the Commission to nominate candidates for the Director of Planning subject to Mayoral appointment.
4.105 – Remaining paragraphs	No change, except to correct grammar and typos and remove gendered language.
4.106(a) – Board of Appeals First paragraph	<p>Removes reference to “nomination” by the Mayor, and clarifies that the Mayor’s appointments are subject to Board of Supervisors rejection under section 3.100.</p> <p>Deletes unnecessary references to Section 4.101 and vacancy appointments.</p>
4.106(a) -- Second paragraph	Deletes deadlines for Board approval of Mayor’s appointments. Retains those deadlines for President’s appointments.
4.106(a) -- Third paragraph	No change other than to modify “appointing officer” to “appointing authority” for consistency. This language regarding removal for official misconduct remains in Section 4.106 because the default at-will rule does not apply to the Board of Appeals.
4.106(a) -- Fourth paragraph	Deletes old transition language regarding staggering of terms. We will prepare a transition provision in the Charter amendment to clarify that current terms will continue.
4.106(a) -- Fifth paragraph	<p>Updates the title from “executive secretary” to “executive director.”</p> <p>Keeps existing rule that the Board may appoint and remove the executive director.</p>

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4.106(b)	Removes gendered language. Clarifies existing exceptions to Board of Appeals jurisdiction that are not currently explicitly named in the Charter.
4.106(c)-(d)	No change.
4.108 – Fire Commission	Removes references to four-year terms and Mayoral removal because those issues are addressed in Section 4.101 and 4.101.6. Adds “effectiveness” for clarity of the Commission’s role.
4.109 – Police Commission	Opening paragraph – removes extraneous language.
4.109(a)	Adds that the Mayor’s appointments are not subject to Board approval, but are subject to the default rule that the Board may reject the appointment by a 2/3 vote.
4.109(b)	Removes outdated references to the Rules Committee nominations and clarifies that the Board makes appointments. Deletes language regarding Board approval of Mayoral appointments. Deletes language regarding staggered terms. Retains language allowing the DA, PD, or Sheriff to recommend appointees. Deletes language regarding removal because 4.101 applies.
4.109(c)	Deleted so that the default rule applies; the Mayor may remove the Chief.
4.109(d)	Adds the word “effectiveness” for clarity. Changes to discipline procedures will be added in Appendix A and elsewhere.
4.110 Health Commission	Removes reference to four-year terms and removal because 4.101.6 and 4.101 apply, respectively.
4.111 Human Services Commission	Removes reference to Board veto of appointments, four-year terms, and removal because 3.100, 4.101.6 and 4.101 apply, respectively. The Task Force voted to add a reference to food security here, but may wish to reconsider in light of the brevity of this section.
4.119(a) Commission on the Status of Women	Clarifies that the Commission is an Advisory Body as defined in the Charter. States that terms and term limits rules in Section 4.101.6 apply (because the default rules in 4.100.6 only apply to Commissions in the Charter). Removes unnecessary reference to Section 3.100. Deletes the official misconduct removal provision.
4.119(b)	Removes the unnecessary sentence that states the Board and Mayor may assign additional duties to the Commission.

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4.119(c)	States that the Commission will transfer to the Administrative Code and may be amended by ordinance in the future.
14.101-1	<p>Authorizes the Board of Supervisors to amend voter-approved ordinances in specific ways:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">(1) Eliminate the Advisory Committee of Street Artists and Crafts Examiners Police Code Article 24 and establish a new system for the City to receive input on applications from experienced artists or craftspersons.(2) Remove the nomination requirements in Administrative Code Chapter 67 for nomination of members to the Sunshine Task Force and instead provide that the Board of Supervisors will appoint members taking into account certain desired qualifications.(3) Add a four-year term and a three-term limit for the Ratepayer Representative seat on the Refuse Rate Board.