



Draft Minutes

Regular Meeting of the Commission Streamlining Task Force City and County of San Francisco

Daniel Lurie
Mayor

Wednesday, August 20, 2025
1:00 pm

City Hall, Room 408
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place
San Francisco, CA 94102

Meeting will also be broadcast online and remote public comment will be available via WebEx event. To view the online presentation, join the meeting using the link <https://tinyurl.com/mryez7u9> and password PropE. Members of the public may use email address CommissionStreamlining@sfgov.org to join the WebEx meeting if needed. To join by phone, dial 415-655-0001 and enter access code (webinar ID) 2663 504 8519 followed by ##. See page 3 for additional remote public comment instructions.

Agenda

1. Call to Order

Chair Harrington called the meeting to order at 1:01 pm.

2. Roll Call

Ed Harrington, Chair	seat 4 - Board of Supervisors designee (public sector labor representative)
Jean Fraser, Vice Chair	seat 5 - Mayor's designee (expert in open and accountable government)
Andrea Bruss	seat 3 - City Attorney's designee
Sophie Hayward	seat 1 - City Administrator's designee
Natasha Mihal	seat 2 - Controller's designee

Hannah Kohanzadeh, the clerk, called roll. Natasha Mihal was absent. Vice Chair Fraser was delayed but joined the meeting before item 4. With three members present at roll call, a quorum was established.

3. Announcements (Informational Item)

The clerk noted the Task Force initiated outreach to departments and the press to help spread awareness about the Task Force and its ongoing work.

4. General Public Comment

Public comment was received from 15 speakers:

- Dylan Herschel, representative for San Franciscans for Social Housing, urged the Task Force not to eliminate the Housing Stability Fund Oversight Board (HSFOB), as suggested by the staff recommendation and approved by the Task Force at its July 16, 2025 meeting.
- Yoel Haile, Director of the Criminal Law and Immigration Project of the ACLU – Northern California, opposed the staff recommendations to eliminate the Sheriff Department Oversight

Board and the Juvenile Probation Commission on behalf of the ACLU – Northern California. Chair Harrington paused his comment since the bodies were under consideration during Item 7, the borderline inactive bodies. Yoel's full comment is noted below in Item 7's public comment.

- Malaika Finkelstein, teacher at San Francisco City College and member of American Federation of Teachers AFT 2121, emphasized the importance of laborers' voices remaining involved in planning and government.
- Adam Wood, delegate of the San Francisco Firefighters' Union to the San Francisco Labor Council, affirmed support for upholding labor standards, especially in the current global climate of deteriorating labor standards.
- Kim Tavaglione, Executive Director of the San Francisco Labor Council, expressed displeasure with the Task Force, stating that working families should have a voice in local government and the proceedings of the Task Force are eroding that ability.
- Najuawanda (Naj) Daniels, a native San Franciscan, advocated for commissions as an opportunity for regular San Franciscans to participate in government without needing to be City staff or well-connected with politicians.
- Rosa Shields, Political Director of the San Francisco Labor Council, advocated for strengthening commissions rather than eliminating them. She commented on growing inequities in San Francisco which impact laborers and highlighted that commissions are opportunities to address these inequities.
- Jegy Sering, SEIU 1021 Field Representative, raised concerns with labor's voice being removed from government through the commission streamlining process.
- Manuel Rodriguez, Juvenile Probation Commission member and San Francisco resident, expressed his personal opinions. He requested more community outreach about the Task Force's work to increase community participation. He advocated that the Juvenile Probation Commission be listed as a governance commission rather than an advisory committee.
- Patrick Monette-Shaw provided comment and submitted the following written summary:

This Task Force should not eliminate any Boards or Commissions approved by the voters. Period. If you do recommend eliminating bodies approved by the voters, I will have to oppose the Board of Supervisors hearings on your recommendations, and oppose any ballot measure you put before the voters in the future. Does the Streamlining Task Force have a list of which boards and commissions were created by the voters vs. created via other means? Where can I find that list?
- Alex Lansberg, Research and Advocacy Director for the Electrical Industry, expressed both his personal and professional opinion as a member of the HSFOB. He supports the HSFOB and noted that the body has not met because the Board of Supervisors has not allocated funds to the body.
- Julie Traun, Director of the Court Appointed Programs of the Bar Association of San Francisco, expressed support for maintaining current governance commissions rather than making those commissions advisory committees to ensure transparency and public participation with those bodies. She expressed dismay with the recommendation that the Juvenile Probation Commission should not coordinate with the Superior Courts to name members to the commission.
- A worker with SEIU who takes care of their mother and brother affirmed support for being nurturing, loving, and kind.
- Margaret Brodtkin, President of the Juvenile Probation Commission, expressed displeasure with the Task Force and the staff recommendations, stating that it seems as if the default recommendation is to eliminate the body and the public feedback and outreach work is happening too late in the process.

- Tracy Brown-Gallardo, a native San Franciscan, affirmed support for commissions since they incorporate public feedback to make informed decisions and allow a diversity of opinions to be heard.

5. Approve Minutes – August 6, 2025 meeting (Action Item)

This item was not called.

6. Financial Analysis (Discussion Item)

This item was not called.

7. Borderline Inactive Bodies (Action Item)

Chair Harrington stated the Task Force would be considering staff recommendations for 21 bodies. Members could request a specific body to be voted on individually rather than as part of a package. He reminded the public that the Task Force’s votes were tentative decisions, with the final report to be considered in January 2026 being the only official vote the Task Force takes.

Henry O’Connell, Senior Analyst from the Controller’s Office reviewed the process for developing the recommendations. He defined the concept of “borderline inactivity” as identifying bodies with 25% or more seat vacancies or which met fewer than four times in the last calendar year.

Staff recommended ten bodies be kept:

- Bayview Hunters Point Citizens Advisory Committee,
- Cannabis Oversight Committee,
- Children, Youth and Their Families Oversight and Advisory Committee,
- Citizens Committee on Community Development,
- Community Corrections Partnership,
- Disaster Council,
- Elections Commission,
- Enhanced Infrastructure Financing District Public Financing Authority No. 1,
- LGBTQI+ Advisory Committee, and
- Treasure Island Development Authority Board of Directors.

Staff recommended nine bodies be eliminated:

- Justice Tracking Information System (JUSTIS) Committee Governance Council,
- Sheriff’s Department Oversight Board,
- SoMa Community Stabilization Fund Community Advisory Committee,
- South of Market Community Planning Advisory Committee,
- Sweatfree Procurement Advisory Group,
- Treasure Island/Yerba Buena Island Citizens Advisory Board,
- Treasury Oversight Committee,
- Waterfront Design Advisory Committee, and
- Workers’ Compensation Council.

Staff recommended two bodies be deferred:

- Citizens’ General Obligation Bond Oversight Committee, and
- Commission on Aging Advisory Council.

The Task Force confirmed that bodies voted to be kept, modified, or deferred in the meeting would be heard a second time in their policy topic area meeting, whereas bodies voted to be eliminated would not be heard a second time during their policy topic area meeting. All bodies would be open for discussion through January 2026 as the Task Force finalizes its recommendations.

Chair Harrington requested deferring the Sweatfree Procurement Advisory Group and the Sheriff Department Oversight Board; he also requested keeping the Citizens' General Obligation Bond Oversight Committee. Sophie Hayward requested deferring the Bayview Hunters Point Citizens Advisory Committee and the LGBTQI+ Advisory Committee because staff applied equity criteria that the Task Force previously excluded due to concerns about subjectivity. Andrea Bruss commented that the voting process for inactive bodies was confusing for Task Force Members and the public. She also requested to defer the Children, Youth, and Their Families Oversight and Advisory Committee, noting that her request did not imply disagreement with the recommendation. Chair Harrington affirmed that bodies kept would be re-heard during their policy area meeting to help clarify the voting process. Vice Chair Jean Fraser requested only voting on the elimination of bodies since keeping or deferring bodies in the inactive bodies session led to the same outcome of hearing the body at its policy area meeting.

Project Manager Rachel Alonso confirmed Vice Chair Fraser's understanding that keeping or deferring bodies leads to their hearing a second time before the Task Force. She explained these bodies must be heard again because staff lacked full templates when drafting recommendations for the borderline inactive bodies. Staff only had the evaluation criteria, resulting in partial recommendations. However, Ms. Alonso noted any borderline inactive body eliminated would not be aligned to the templates or brought forth for a second review for efficiency's sake.

With Ms. Alonso's process clarification in mind, Vice Chair Fraser recommended the Task Force take no position on the ten bodies staff recommended to be kept or the two bodies staff recommended to defer and solely focus on the nine bodies recommended for elimination. Sophie Hayward approved of Vice Chair Fraser's suggested course of action. Chair Harrington noted that the Task Force had previously decided to defer two of the nine bodies: the Sheriff's Department Oversight Board and the Sweatfree Procurement Advisory Group.

Before the Task Force's vote, public comment was received from 28 speakers:

- Devanshu Patel, Chair of the Bayview Hunters Point Citizens Advisory Committee, urged the Task Force to keep the Bayview Hunters Point Citizens Advisory Committee since the body serves as a communication bridge between residents, City officials, and developers. He clarified vacancies are caused by the member-appointing bodies, not the Committee.
- Molly Bodkin sought to provide comment on the Housing Stability Fund Oversight Board (HSFOB), but Chair Harrington paused her comment since the body was not under consideration for the borderline inactive bodies. Since the Task Force discussed the HSFOB during the July 16th meeting, Chair Harrington invited her to provide comment during the subsequent general public comment period (Item 12), which she did. Her comments are noted below in Item 12's general public comment.
- Julia Toscano, a representative of the San Francisco Living Wage Coalition, stated there should be increased protections for workers. She stated oversight is critical in demonstrating an ordinance is working.
- Jayson Wechter, the inaugural President of the Sheriff's Department Oversight Board (SDOB) who has held various law enforcement oversight positions, advocated for keeping the SDOB. He voiced support for increased independent oversight of carceral facilities, noting that it is the

national trend. He also commented that the Department of Police Accountability is not an appropriate entity to take on the SDOB's work.

- William Palmer, a member of the Sheriff's Department Oversight Board (SDOB), urged the Task Force to recall San Francisco's history and maintain the SDOB. He also credited the Board of Supervisors for making progress in addressing issues incarcerated individuals face. He recommended the \$300 parking stipend be replaced by an exempt sticker to create cost-savings for the body.
- David Woo, a representative of SOMA Pilipinas, advocated the Task Force to keep the SoMa Community Stabilization Fund Community Advisory Committee. He noted the SoMa Community Stabilization Fund still has funds to disperse and uplifted that the body works with MOHCD to ensure community input is incorporated into the fund allocation plans. The body also provides input to the area plans.
- Angelica Cabande, Executive Director of SOMCAN, urged the Task Force to keep the SoMa Community Stabilization Fund Community Advisory Committee and the South of Market Community Planning Advisory Committee because the bodies support the Filipino cultural district and the larger community. She noted the assistance the bodies provide to MOHCD to collect public input and set priorities for the community.
- Teresa Dulalas, Resident Outreach and Education representative of SOMCAN, affirmed support for the SoMa Community Stabilization Fund Community Advisory Committee. She expressed appreciation for the role the body plays in preserving affordable housing in District 6.
- Zachary Frial, Environmental Justice Organizer of SOMCAN, urged the Task Force to keep the SoMa Community Stabilization Fund Community Advisory Committee and the South of Market Community Planning Advisory Committee. He noted that the staff recommendations reflected a lack of community outreach to understand the significance of the bodies under consideration.
- Hene Kelly, a member of the Labor Council, supported keeping the Sweatfree Procurement Advisory Committee and maintaining bodies created by voters.
- Najuawanda (Naj) Daniels, an labor representative for SEIU 1021, strongly opposed the staff recommendation to eliminate the Sheriff's Department Oversight Board (SDOB). She reminded the Task Force that voters approved the creation of the SDOB in 2020 through Proposition D, a Charter amendment that passed with nearly 67% approval, because of repeated incidents of abuse and mismanagement in San Francisco jails. She noted the body acts as a safeguard providing transparency and accountability for the Sheriff's Department.
- Yoel Haile, Director of the Criminal Law and Immigration Project of the ACLU – Northern California, strongly opposed the staff recommendations to eliminate the SDOB and the Juvenile Probation Commission on behalf of the ACLU – Northern California. Eliminating these bodies would centralize authority in the Mayor's Office, which requires public oversight due to decades of misconduct and harm caused to the public. He also commented that the Police Commission should not be modified from its current status to allow the Mayor to appoint and remove members without cause, remove policy and budget decision making abilities, remove the body's authority to appoint department heads, and remove the requirement for body members to have experience to sit on the body.
- Margaret Brodtkin expressed concern with the Children, Youth and Their Families Oversight and Advisory Committee being placed on the borderline inactive bodies list. She also raised concerns with the suggestion that the body become an advisory committee rather than remaining a governance commission. She recommended the Task Force focus on discovering how to make current bodies better and more efficient rather than deciding to keep or remove bodies.
- Kim Tavaglione, Executive Director of the San Francisco Labor Council, expressed support for the Sweatfree Advisory Procurement Group, noting the work the body does to improve working

conditions in other countries. She also expressed support for the Sheriff's Department Oversight Board. She urged the Task Force to keep the SoMa Community Stabilization Fund Community Advisory Committee and the South of Market Community Planning Advisory Committee as well, since their communities use them as news sources.

- Adam Wood, a San Francisco firefighter, advocated for keeping the Sweatfree Procurement Advisory Group, citing the importance of clothing himself and his colleagues in uniforms created under humane working conditions.
- Ariel Park, member of SEIU Local USWW and resident of the Tenderloin, urged the Task Force to keep all bodies under consideration, especially the Sweatfree Procurement Advisory Group (SPAG). She uplifted that one of San Francisco's great qualities is a history of labor activism and cited the SPAG as a marker of that history.
- Rosa Shields, Political Director of the San Francisco Labor Council, advocated for City workers wearing ethically made uniforms and workers writ-large having a say in City government. She supported greater community engagement to collect public feedback about the bodies under consideration and urged the Task Force to keep the Sweatfree Procurement Advisory Group.
- Alice Rogoff, a representative of the San Francisco Labor Council and the San Francisco Living Wage Coalition, supported keeping the Sweatfree Procurement Advisory Group.
- Sheryl Jackson advocated for all bodies under consideration of the Task Force to be kept to maintain accountability efforts in San Francisco. She also requested that all bodies receive increased funding and a communications department to ensure that there is effective communication with communities.
- Julia Toscan, representative of the San Francisco Living Wage Coalition, expressed support for the Sweatfree Procurement Advisory Group (SPAG). Char Harrington paused her public comment to note that members of the public are allowed to provide public comment once per public comment period regardless of their speaking points. Chief Assistant City Attorney Jon Givner affirmed that rule. Chair Harrington allowed Ms. Toscan to proceed with the rest of her public comment. Ms. Toscan stated SPAG is needed to ensure that living wages are paid to garment workers in the U.S. and abroad, and that those attempting to weaken the body are opposed to a living wage, and the sweatfree procurement ordinance should be strengthened rather than weakened.
- Tracy Brown-Gallardo read a letter on behalf of County Supervisor Shamann Walton citing opposition eliminating the Sheriff's Department Oversight Board. The letter reminded the Task Force that the body was created following repeated abuse and mismanagement incidents inside San Francisco jails requiring greater accountability and oversight. The letter notes that removing the body undercuts the will of the voters.
- Calvin Walch lamented the Task Force did not adopt a rigorous public outreach process to help inform staff recommendations. He noted the primary difference between Proposition D and Proposition E was the creation of the Task Force body and shared frustration that the Task Force uses bureaucratic City departments to help make the decisions about which bodies should be kept or eliminated. He also affirmed support for the South of Market Planning Advisory Committee given the Mayor's dedication to revitalizing downtown without a community planning process.
- David Pilpel expressed support for the Citizen's General Obligation Bond Committee, including the City Services Auditor's advisory function, and proposed folding in all city bond oversight – including the MTA Bond Oversight Committee and Revenue PUC Bond Oversight Committee. He flagged that some bodies should not meet monthly, such as the Elections Commission. He also noted that the staff recommendations should continue to include and expand upon descriptions on how different body's functions could be reassigned. Mr. Pilpel also reminded the Task Force that

public comment could be reduced from 3 minutes to ensure that the Task Force could hear the entire agenda.

- Ovava Afuhaamango, a commissioner on the Sheriff's Department Oversight Board, opposed eliminating the Sheriff's Department Oversight Board (SDOB). She affirmed her belief that the SDOB combats historic inequities. Ms. Afuhaamango noted the body provides checks and balances to the Sheriff's Department to prevent gross misconduct. She stated that the majority of inmates in San Francisco's jail are black and brown individuals who will suffer the most if SDOB is eliminated. She also noted how difficult it was to create a Charter body.
- Patrick Monette-Shaw provided comment and submitted the following written summary:
This "Borderline Inactive" category is an artificial category, artificial construct, made up out of thin air by this Task Force. This category wasn't even mentioned in "Prop. E" put before voters.

This Task Force should postpone voting on whether to eliminate any of the so-called borderline inactive bodies without the BLA's cost analysis being complete.

Because the Sheriff's Oversight Board was voter approved, you shouldn't recommend it be combined with DPA. Similarly, the Citizen's General Obligation Bond Oversight Committee, (CJOB) shouldn't be combined with another finance body. The goal of streamlining shouldn't hinge on whether a given Board has too many vacancies. The solution is to double-down recruiting to fill vacancies. Issuing future G.O. bonds requires voter approval, that always promise CJOB will provide oversight of bonds voters approve.

A reminder: Streamlining Task Force Chair Harrington cautioned against "dramatically altering the City's commission structure, and against radically overhauling public governance."

- Kristin Hardy, a rank-and-file member of Zuckerberg San Francisco General Hospital as a Birth and Death Clerk and Vice President of SEIU 1021 San Francisco, encouraged the Task Force to protect workers' and voters' voices on commissions. She warned not to use labor as a scapegoat and eliminate bodies that have vested interests in City workers' interests.
- John Logan, member of the Sweatfree Procurement Advisory Group, shared that he met with Chair Harrington and expressed confusion as to why the Sweatfree Procurement Advisory Group (SPAG) has become a poster child for "San Francisco's art of accomplishing nothing." The role of the group is ensure the greatest impact of and most cost-effective enforcement of the Sweatfree Ordinance. He stated if the group did not exist, then members of the Office of Labor Standards Enforcement (OLSE) or Office of contract Administration (OCA) would perform the work despite lacking the expertise necessary for proper execution. He is in favor of reducing the size of the body to deal with seat vacancies, which he noted are not caused by SPAG itself but rather by the appointing authorities.
- Celestina Pearl opposed the staff recommendation to eliminate the Sheriff's Department Oversight Board due to its operations as a public oversight mechanism for misconduct and abuse prevention. She also offered support for bodies that enshrine marginalized communities' engagement with the City.

After public comment closed, Chair Harrington clarified that the Task Force does not have the authority to eliminate the Sheriff's Department Oversight Board as the body is written into the Charter and will require voters to pass a ballot initiative to modify or eliminate it. He noted the Board of Supervisors would need to place any changes to the Sheriff's Department Oversight Board on the ballot, which would

then go before voters, and that the Task Force has not taken a position on what should be done with the body to date.

Chair Harrington also explained that the Controller's Office assists with drafting the recommendations based on input heard from the Task Force members. He stated the public should blame the Task Force members rather than the Controller's Office when disagreeing with the staff recommendations. He further stated that the Controller's Office helps the Task Force have a process to move through all the bodies by grouping bodies together so the Task Force and the public can hold discussions on each body.

Vice Chair Fraser highlighted the difficulties of the process discussing each body individually, stating that the Task Force has neither the province nor expertise to recommend a decision for each body. She recommended the Task Force apply rules, such as a template, to each body, keep all bodies, and either honor the codified sunset dates or add sunset dates. She asked her fellow Task Force members if it was a good use of the public's time for them to argue why a body should be kept. Chair Harrington refuted Vice Chair Fraser's suggestion, noting that the Task Force members have already settled on proceeding body-by-body. He also added that he does not think applying a uniform template to bodies works to help determine what should be done with a body.

Chair Harrington affirmed the Task Force members' request to defer voting on the Sweatfree Procurement Advisory Group and the Sheriff's Department Oversight Board; based on public comment, he also recommended deferring the SoMa Community Stabilization Fund Community Advisory Committee and the South of Market community Planning Advisory Committee.

Andrea Bruss motioned for the elimination of the following five bodies:

- Justice Tracking Information System (JUSTIS) Committee Governance Council,
- Treasure Island/Yerba Buena Island Citizen Advisory Board,
- Treasury Oversight Committee,
- Waterfront Design Advisory Committee, and
- Workers' Compensation Council.

Sophie Hayward seconded the motion. The Task Force did not discuss the motion. The vote passed by Chair Harrington, Andrea Bruss, and Sophie Hayward, and was opposed by Vice Chair Fraser. The motion passed 3-1 by voice vote.

Chair Harrington opened the conversation regarding other borderline inactive bodies the Task Force members identified wanting to discuss. He began with the Sweatfree Procurement Advisory Group (SPAG), noting the public's concern with the body's future and that after it was discussed at the Board of Supervisors (BOS) last month, it was sent back to committee; he advised the Task Force let BOS address body's fate. He noted in his conversation with SPAG members that he recommended that they get the Mayor and the Board of Supervisors to make appointments to their group since without adequate membership the group will die. He also recommended that SPAG consider reducing the membership from 15 members to a smaller number to avoid appointment challenges. Chair Harrington concluded by recommending that the Task Force wait until December 2025 for BOS to make a decision on SPAG and only discuss the body if BOS does not take action. Sophie Hayward agreed to defer SPAG until later in 2025. She also provided context about the SPAG legislation at BOS, flagging that it pre-dates the creation of the Commission Streamlining Task Force and does not consider SPAG's effectiveness, so she believes it is not necessarily productive to hand the decision-making back to BOS.

The Task Force agreed to make a motion about all the bodies at once since the intent is to have them heard in their respective policy area groups.

Sophie Hayward motioned for the deferral of the following four bodies to their specific policy area discussion dates:

- Sweatfree Procurement Advisory Group,
- Sheriff's Department Oversight Board,
- SoMa Community Stabilization Fund Community Advisory Group, and
- South of Market Community Planning Advisory Committee.

Andrea Bruss seconded the motion. The vote passed by Chair Harrington, Vice Chair Fraser, Andrea Bruss, and Sophie Hayward. The motion unanimously passed 4-0 by voice vote.

8. Templates Close-out (Action Item)

Chair Harrington opened the item by sharing the Task Force has been discussing templates to have a standard approach for considering the attributes of different kinds of bodies. He noted the Task Force made considerable progress finalizing the templates in its August 6th meeting and that this discussion would conclude the template creation process. Joanna Bell, Senior Analyst with the Controller's Office, reminded the Task Force of where they left off: voting on contract approval authority and policy-making authority for governance commissions.

Contract Approval Authority

Ms. Bell overviewed the current contract approval processes, noting that commissions are not granted contract approval authority by the Charter, but six commissions are granted Chapter 6 construction contract authority by a Board of Supervisors ordinance; thus, commissions may develop policies requiring approval of contracts, but such policies are not legally binding. Ms. Bell shared a chart illustrating the average number of contracts reviewed in 2024, flagging that many governance bodies do not approve contracts, while some approve hundreds annually. Seventeen of 23 governance commissions for which detailed contract approval information was available had some contract approval. Staff recommended keeping the status quo that commissions should have options to approve contracts, however the Task Force should create guidelines for when it is appropriate for commissions to approve contracts. Staff recommended deferring decisions on those guidelines until a later meeting.

Policy-Making Authority

Ms. Bell noted there are differences between creating policy, approving policy, overseeing department work, and directing department work and whether policies impact solely one department or the City as a whole. She noted arguments against allowing commissions to set policy, including that voters elect the Mayor and the Board of Supervisors for this purpose and it is not appropriate for volunteers to set policy. In contrast, governance bodies may not see the purpose of having a commission without policy-making authority. Another argument for governance bodies being able to set policy included that commissions may act as an extension of the Mayor and set policy since the Mayor and Board of Supervisors will never have enough time to touch all policy matters. Lastly, it can be argued that governance commissions being able to set policy provides a forum for public discussion where public input may inform policy. Staff recommended allowing governance bodies to approve specific policies created by departments, but they should not be able to generate their own policies for departments to execute. Staff recommended deferring decisions on details until a later meeting.

Before the Task Force's vote, public comment was received from 10 speakers:

- Stephen “Woody” LaBounty, President and CEO of San Francisco Heritage, spoke in affirmation of the Historic Preservation Commission’s ability to approve of projects, landmarks, and legacy businesses. He noted that if the Historic Preservation Commission were incorporated into the Planning Commission, then the City’s historic preservation would not receive the same level of attention it receives now. He also noted that the Historic Preservation Commission membership requires specific expertise attributing to the body’s success and efficiency.
- Margaret Brodtkin strongly opposed the Task Force altering governance commissions’ abilities to set policy. She noted the challenges of defining what policy-making is and that it could curtail valuable work bodies perform if changes were made. She also commented that a good department head and a good commission know how to work together to achieve policies. She affirmed her previous comments that commission members need training. Ms. Brodtkin also stated that creating templates for bodies is good idea in theory but will not be successful in implementation.
- Kim Tavaglione, Executive Director of the San Francisco Labor Council, urged the Task Force to tread lightly around making decisions on what policies commissions may set since each body has unique missions and needs.
- Courtney Damkroger, a former member of the Landmarks Preservation Advisory Board and Historic Preservation Commission, noted that the ability to approve permits for alterations for designated historic buildings improved the planning and decision-making of maintenance for historic resources.
- Dr. Kathryn Kenley Johnson, a gender policy analyst and researcher affiliated with San Francisco State University and involved with the Commission on the Status of Women, emphasized that the Task Force should refrain from prohibiting commissions from participating in policy-making and leaving policy-setting only to the Mayor and Board of Supervisors because they lack subject matter expertise. She also advocated that the Commission on the Status of Women should be considered a public safety body.
- Julie Soo, President of the Sheriff’s Department Oversight Board (SDOB), noted that commissions work in collaboration with departments to set policy, incorporating public feedback as well. She also noted that while the SDOB is categorized as an advisory body, it holds governance body powers, such as subpoena power. She also noted that stating that members are volunteers does not recognize their subject matter expertise.
- Angelica Cabande, Executive Director of SOMCAN, requested the Task Force slow down their decision-making and engage in a community process to determine what capabilities a commission should have.
- Patrick Monette-Shaw provided comment and submitted the following written summary:
Regarding the “Templates Close-Out” agenda item, I note that for “Contract Approval” for Governance Bodies, an argument against Bodies having contract approval was that transparency is possible through regular contract progress reports, and periodic presentations to a given Commission. Unfortunately, it’s too difficult for members of the public to access reports about contract performance. The decision whether Commissions should have contract approval authority should be deferred.

As for whether Body’s should set policies for a department, the Mayor and Board of Supervisors don’t have time to set departmental policies, and neither the Mayor nor Supervisors are subject matter experts on policy issues minutia. The idea a Mayor is a subject matter expert is fatally flawed, just as it’s flawed Donald Trump is a subject matter expert on anything. Commissions aren’t acting as an extension of the Mayor; instead they act as subject-matter experts. This decision should also be deferred.

- David Pilpel supported keeping contract approval and policy-setting authorities for commissions. He expressed support for Margaret Brodtkin’s idea to offer trainings for commissioners. Noting the length of the meeting, Mr. Pilpel requested clarification of what agenda items would be heard later in the meeting and which would be pushed to a future meeting.
- Ovava Afuhamango, a commissioner on the Sheriff’s Department Oversight Board, affirmed Julie Soo’s comments that the SDOB is set up as an advisory body but holds governance body powers.

Andrea Bruss initiated the Task Force’s discussion by stating her preference to allow the Board of Supervisors (BOS) to continue defining when commissions have contract approval authority, as they do for Chapter 6 departments. Ms. Bell confirmed that Ms. Bruss’s preference aligned with the recommendation for contract approval authority. Sophie Hayward agreed with Ms. Bruss’s comments and noted she did not find the staff recommendation on these template components very useful as she finds the staff recommendation on the body-by-body review. Ms. Hayward ultimately agreed with the idea that BOS should maintain authority to delegate via ordinance when commissions have contract approval authority and noted that there should be a threshold beyond the Chapter 6 threshold.

Chair Harrington summarized that the Task Force seemed to agree with the current contract approval and policy-setting authority for governance bodies, a change in the direction from the August 6th meeting. He agreed with public commenter Ms. Brodtkin that policy-setting is in the eye of the beholder. When Chair Harrington asked if the Task Force agreed with keeping the status quo to close Item 8, Sophie Hayward confirmed her agreement with maintaining the current approaches to contract and policy setting authorities but raised concern with other elements of the templates, noting staff shared the template documents only 12 hours before the August 20th meeting. Ms. Hayward did not want to close Item 8 without addressing her other concerns. Chair Harrington organized the Task Force to affirm their positions on contract and policy setting authorities for governance commissions before moving on to other elements of the templates. Task Force members unanimously agreed to continue to allow the Board of Supervisors to enable governance commissions to approve contracts and to allow governance bodies to continue to set policy.

Sophie Hayward raised her concerns with the Evaluation Criteria posed by staff. She recalled the Task Force unanimously removing criterion 5b, “Was the group established to combat historic inequities, such as neighborhood disinvestment or discrimination?” and shared surprise and frustration that staff included the criterion in the Evaluation Criteria document. She requested criterion 5b be removed from the document and flagged uncertainty of what the document aimed to accomplish.

Ms. Bell responded that staff overrode the Task Force’s decision and included a revised, more specific version of the criterion that the Task Force originally opposed because staff felt strongly about including an equity criterion in the evaluation criteria that inform the overall recommendations. Ms. Hayward acknowledged staff’s discomfort excluding an equity criterion but reflected that it could not be applied consistently – as evidenced by the recommendations shared with the Task Force to date.

Ms. Hayward repeated her desire to remove the equity criterion from the Evaluation Criteria document. Chair Harrington had no opposition to the notion. Andrea Bruss echoed staff’s desire to have equity be a core component of the Task Force’s commission review process but noted that the criterion is subjective and inconsistently applied, leading to confusion about its implementation. She stated the purpose of the evaluation criteria was to provide the staff with objective criteria to apply to the review of the commissions. She advised staff to issue “no recommendation” on a body if they are uncomfortable applying only the objective criteria. Ms. Bruss asked whether staff would adhere if the Task Force

removed the equity criterion again. Staff agreed to do so, and Project Director Rachel Alonso offered to edit submitted staff recommendations to reflect the change. Chair Harrington accepted and appreciated Ms. Alonso's offer.

9. Staff Working Groups (Action Item)

This item was not called.

10. Legally Required Bodies (Action Item)

This item was not called.

11. Future Agenda Topics (Discussion Item)

Project Director Rachel Alonso reminded the Task Force that the next meeting, on September 3rd, included a review of public safety bodies. She noted that the Budget and Legislative Analyst (BLA) did not provide their overview today as planned and that the Task Force could invite them to share their presentation at the September 3rd meeting, highlighting that the BLA's report would be released before then.

Ms. Alonso observed that the current release schedule for staff recommendations created confusion for members of the public regarding which items would be heard at upcoming Task Force meetings. She suggested that staff publish recommendations along a different timeline. Chair Harrington agreed and directed staff to release recommendations in advance of the relevant meeting, but not prior to the completion of discussion on the preceding policy topic.

Chair Harrington and Ms. Alonso agreed to clarify the decision-making process for the Task Force going forward.

Vice Chair Fraser noted the public's confusion about when they could speak on various topics since general public comment was held at the beginning of the meeting. She inquired about the rules for holding general public comment. Chief Assistant City Attorney Jon Givner clarified that general public comment must be held at least once during each meeting, but it can be held at any point. Vice Chair Fraser urged the Task Force to schedule general public comment at the end of the meeting. Chair Harrington initially opposed the idea but allowed the Task Force to hold general public comment at the end of the September 3rd meeting after other members urged him.

Public comment was received from 3 speakers:

- Margaret Brodtkin shared concerns with how the Task Force intends to review each body at future policy area topic meetings. She agreed with Vice Chair Fraser that the Task Force is not in a position to make decisions on the retention or elimination of individual bodies since the Task Force lacks subject matter expertise.
- Caryl Ito, a volunteer for the Commission on the Status of Women for 21 years and previous Airport Commissioner, raised confusion with how Chair Harrington ran the meeting. She stated her understanding that every action decision the Task Force took required a public comment opportunity. She observed the Task Force previously took informal votes by "yay" or "nay" without a formal vote to make decisions to direct staff and did not make time for public comment on those informal votes

Chief Assistant City Attorney Jon Givner responded that the Task Force must hear public comment on every discussion and action item on the agenda. For the action items, the Task Force

must take public comment before taking votes. Mr. Givner noted that the Task Force is only legally required to take public comment once per agenda item even if they take multiple votes within one agenda item. He noted that other bodies may take public comment multiple times within one agenda item if there are multiple votes taken, but it is a policy decision rather than legally required.

- Julie Soo, President of the Sheriff's Department Oversight Board, uplifted the Civil Grand Jury's report on commissions in San Francisco and recommended their report be posted on the Task Force's website for public awareness.

Chief Harrington noted that the Civil Grand Jury presented their findings to the Task Force at an earlier meeting and that their report is already posted on the Task Force's website.

12. General Public Comment – Continued from item 4 if necessary

Public comment was received from 1 speaker:

- Molly Bodkin, a resident of District 6 and a mother who previously experienced homelessness, supported the Housing Stability Fund Oversight Board (HSFOB). She stated that the Mayor's Office and Board of Supervisors' lack of follow-through on policy was not an adequate reason to eliminate the HSFOB. She noted voters approved creating the body and affirmed governments need to continue to fund stabilized and social housing rather than affordable housing.

13. Adjournment

Chair Harrington adjourned the meeting at 4:12 pm.

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Minutes prepared by Hannah Kohanzadeh, Principal Administrative Analyst.