

Dear Board of Supervisors,

As members of the San Francisco Small Business Commission, we urge you to reconsider the recommendations from the Commission Streamlining Task Force regarding the Small Business Commission (the Commission). While we understand the intent to streamline city governance, the proposed changes would significantly weaken small business representation, institutional stability, and public trust in the City's commitment to supporting small business owners.

Specifically, we request that:

- **The Small Business Commission remains in the City Charter.** The current proposal to retain the Small Business Commission in Administrative Code would mean that the Commission automatically sunsets every three years. This poses a threat to continuity and accountability. San Francisco's small business community relies on the Commission as a stable and consistent advocate—one that provides institutional memory, policy continuity, and a direct voice in city decision-making. Making the Commission's existence dependent on periodic renewal introduces unnecessary uncertainty into a sector already facing immense pressures from rising costs, post-pandemic recovery, and global pressures.
- **The Small Business Commission retains its name, oversight of the Department head's hiring and firing authority, and approval of Legacy Business Registry applications.** Removing the Commission's name and oversight responsibilities would diminish transparency, public participation, and accountability in key decisions that shape the economic and cultural landscape of our city. The Legacy Business Registry, in particular, was designed to recognize and preserve San Francisco's unique small business heritage—decisions that deserve public deliberation, not administrative processing behind closed doors.
- **The specific qualifications for Commissioner seats should remain.** The current requirements—that the majority of commissioners be small business owners, operators, or representatives of organizations with direct experience supporting small businesses—ensure that decisions are informed by lived experience and grounded in the realities of operating in San Francisco. Diluting these qualifications risks turning the Commission into a symbolic body rather than a true advocate for small business vitality and neighborhood economic diversity.

At a time when San Francisco is working to revitalize its commercial corridors, strengthen community-based entrepreneurship, and restore public confidence in local government, the Commission's independence and expertise are more essential than ever.

As Commissioners, we urge you to reject the Commission Streamlining Task Force recommendations to ensure that small business voices continue to have a meaningful and consistent seat at the table.

Thank you for your time and thoughtful consideration of this matter.