

Good afternoon Chair Harrington and members of the Task Force. My name is Lauren Post and I chair the city's Public Works Commission. I am here today as an individual speaking solely on my own behalf.

Thank you for your diligent and exhaustive work to evaluate the myriad entities providing public input into city government, and for asking if they contribute to the city's success and serve the public interest, or if there are superior ways to enhance accountability.

Thank you for your evaluation of the Public Works Commission, and for the practical suggestions in your memo of September 12<sup>th</sup> on how the Commission's mandate could be handled differently.

My opinion that the Public Works Commission should be eliminated is already on the record. Regarding our approval of contracts, *citywide* rules and procedures launched in 2020 to provide transparency in contract bidding and awards are *working*. The Commission is not needed, and servicing it risks delaying capital project delivery.

I urge you to act boldly and confidently to cut, consolidate, and redefine the city's boards and commissions and not just tweak around the edges. Over 350,000 San Franciscans voted to support the streamlining work you're doing. If it is successful, and the Board of Supervisors and Mayor Lurie act on your recommendations, you will be heroes.

There are other ways to ensure government accountability without the burden and expense of this network of volunteer bodies. For example, every city department could be required to appear annually before the Board's Government Audit and Oversight Committee and report on progress meeting the department's performance metrics. The GAO Committee's hearings are public.

City department heads could hold annual or semiannual town halls to give the public an overview of the department's work, present its budget, and convey other items of public interest to spur constructive dialog.

If there is a city problem to address, the Mayor, Board of Supervisors, or a city department could set up a temporary committee, with members of the public represented, to analyze the problem, and by a specified deadline recommend actions to solve it, similar to what you yourselves are doing. The special committee would then be thanked for its service and disbanded.

Once again, thank you for your own hard work to materially change how San Francisco's government functions, and to use this historic opportunity to contribute to the city's quality of life and economic success. Thank you.