



City and County of San Francisco

Shelter Monitoring Committee

February 15, 2023

Board of Supervisors
San Francisco City Hall
1 Dr. Carlton B Goodlett Place, #244
San Francisco, CA 94102

RE: Shelter Monitoring Committee Resolution on the Ordinance amending the Administrative Code and Business and Tax Regulations Code as required by Proposition C, adopted at the November 8, 2022 election, to provide that the Homelessness Oversight Commission...provide administrative support to...the [Shelter] Monitoring Committee (BOS Rules Committee File [230125](#))

Dear Supervisor Safai and Members of the Board of Supervisors:

The Shelter Monitoring Committee voted on and approved the following resolution in its regular meeting of February 15, 2023.

Sincerely,

Diana Almanza, Chair

Cris Plunkett, Vice Chair



City and County of San Francisco

Shelter Monitoring Committee

WHEREAS, San Francisco Administrative Code Section SEC. 20.302 establishes the Shelter Monitoring Committee, giving it the mandate to “document its findings, submit reports consistent with [Article XII] to the Mayor, the Board of Supervisors, the Local Homeless Coordinating Board, the public, and any other entity, as appropriate. Subject to the fiscal and budgetary provisions of the Charter, the Department of Public Health shall assign two full-time employees to staff the Shelter Monitoring Committee. The Committee shall, among other things, receive and document complaints made to the Committee regarding shelters”; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Homelessness and Supportive Housing—despite the fact that it holds most of the contracts between the City and shelters, and in practice works in close cooperation with shelters to manage expenses and ensure their smooth operation, sharing many common interests with shelter managers—was tasked with drafting the very ordinance required by Proposition C that is supposed to assist the Homelessness Oversight Commission in overseeing said department, and included a clause stating that it will provide administrative support to the Shelter Monitoring Committee (replacing the Department of Public Health); and

WHEREAS, the Shelter Monitoring Committee—whose purpose is to provide the public and appropriate agencies with accurate, comprehensive information about the conditions in and operations of shelters, as well as City policies in place that affect operations of shelters or their impact on shelter clients—did not have the opportunity to provide input into the drafting of said ordinance; and

WHEREAS, Article II, Section 5 of the bylaws of the Shelter Monitoring Committee states that Committee Members shall *not* conduct site visits at a site where their agency holds a contract with said site, to avoid the potential conflict of interest this would entail and to be in a position to objectively assess and to offer serious, constructive criticism of shelters; and

WHEREAS, moving administration of the Shelter Monitoring Committee from the Department of Public Health to the Department of Homelessness and Supportive Housing would make said Committee *less* effective, insofar as the staff of the Shelter Monitoring Committee, who interact with unhoused clients regularly and frequently, would be less able to gain their confidence and, as front-line staff of the Department of Homelessness and Supportive Housing, less likely to be seen by clients as impartial; and

WHEREAS, leaving out the clause that moves administration of the Shelter Monitoring Committee from the Department of Public Health to the Department of Homelessness and Supportive Housing will in no way impede the implementation of Proposition C; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That Shelter Monitoring Committee requests and recommends that what is not broken not be “fixed”; and, be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the staff of Shelter Monitoring Committee not be moved under the administration of the Department of Homelessness and Supportive Housing, but instead remain, independent and impartial, under the administration of the Department of Public Health, where they have resided for almost two decades and are in an excellent position to assist the Members of the Shelter Monitoring Committee to provide accurate, comprehensive information about the conditions in and operations of shelters covered by Article XII of the San Francisco Administrative Code, without having to consider whether senior HSH staff may look askance at the findings of said Committee when or if these could be seen as critical of the Department of Homelessness and Supportive Housing or entail significant efforts on their part to resolve.
