CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO

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Hon. Rochelle C. East
Presiding Judge
San Francisco Superior Court
400 McAllister Street, Room 8
San Francisco, California 94102
By mail and email: CGrandJury@sftc.org

Re: City Attorney Office's response to the June 2026 Civil Grand Jury Report entitled, "At Scale, At Risk: Updating Data and Oversight to Improve Homelessness Services"

Dear Judge East:

In accordance with Penal Code Sections 933 and 933.05, the City Attorney's Office submits this written response to the Civil Grand Jury Report entitled, "At Scale, At Risk: Upgrading Data and Oversight to Improve Homelessness Services," issued in June 2026. The Jury requested that this Office respond to one finding and one recommendation in the report.

For Civil Grand Jury finding 4, the Jury asked that we either:

1. agree with the finding; or

2. disagree with it, wholly or partially, and explain why.

For Civil Grand Jury recommendation 4.1, the Jury asked that we report either:

1. The recommendation has been implemented, with a summary of the implementation;

2. The recommendation has not yet been, but will be implemented in the future, with a timeframe for implementation;

3. The recommendation requires further analysis, with an explanation, scope, and parameters of that analysis, and a timeframe for discussion not more than six months from the publication of the grand jury report; or

4. The recommendation will not be implemented because it is not warranted or reasonable, with an explanation.

Accordingly, the City Attorney's Office responds as follows:

Finding No. 4: The Homelessness Oversight Commission (HOC) has yet to exercise the full extent of its statutory authority and lacks the training and resources to meet the public's expectations as set by the 2022 Prop C initiative.

City Attorney's Office Response to Finding No. 4: Disagree. The San Francisco Charter confers on oversight bodies broad powers, including but not limited to the power to formulate department goals, approve departmental budgets, recommend fees, recommend to the Mayor candidates for appointment to the position of department head, remove a department head, conduct investigations, and hold hearings. The fact that commissions are authorized to engage in these activities does not mean that they are required to do so; commissions generally exercise their authority only as they deem necessary. The Homelessness Oversight Commission routinely exercises its statutory authority where it determines that such exercise is necessary and appropriate, and does not lack the training or resources to meet the public's expectations as set by the 2022 Proposition C initiative.

Recommendation No. 4.1: By June 2027, the City Attorney should create onboarding and training materials for current commission members and future appointees to explain HOC's authority, including performance audits and how to conduct or commission them, and how to conduct robust contract reviews.

City Attorney's Office Response to Recommendation No. 4.1: The recommendation has already been implemented. It has long been the practice of the City Attorney's Office to meet with newly appointed members of oversight commissions, and to provide new commissioners with onboarding and training materials. Existing materials explain the Homelessness Oversight Commission's authority, including its authority to conduct performance audits and adopt a policy to review contracts. While the City Attorney's Office does not provide commissioners with prearranged training specifically on how to perform audits and review contracts, the Office – in collaboration with other departments with expertise in these areas – is currently available to provide such training upon request.

Very truly yours,

DAVID CHIU
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