

CHARTER SECTIONS 4.102 – 4.104 and 4.118

SEC. 4.102. BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS – POWERS AND DUTIES.

Unless otherwise provided in this Charter, each appointive board, commission or other unit of government of the executive branch of the City and County shall:

1. Formulate, evaluate and approve goals, objectives, plans and programs and set policies consistent with the overall objectives of the City and County, as established by the Mayor and the Board of Supervisors through the adoption of City legislation;
2. Develop and keep current an Annual Statement of Purpose outlining its areas of jurisdiction, authorities, purpose and goals, subject to review and approval by the Mayor and the Board of Supervisors;
3. After public hearing, approve applicable departmental budgets or any budget modifications or fund transfers requiring the approval of the Board of Supervisors, subject to the Mayor's final authority to initiate, prepare and submit the annual proposed budget on behalf of the executive branch and the Board of Supervisors' authority under Section [9.103](#);
4. Recommend to the Mayor for submission to the Board of Supervisors rates, fees and similar charges with respect to appropriate items coming within their respective jurisdictions;
5. Unless otherwise specifically provided, submit to the Mayor at least three qualified applicants, and if rejected, to make additional nominations in the same manner, for the position of department head, subject to appointment by the Mayor;
6. Remove a department head; the Mayor may recommend removal of a department head to the commission, and it shall be the commission's duty to act on the Mayor's recommendation by removing or retaining the department head within 30 days; failure to act on the Mayor's recommendation shall constitute official misconduct;

7. Conduct investigations into any aspect of governmental operations within its jurisdiction through the power of inquiry, and make recommendations to the Mayor or the Board of Supervisors;

8. Exercise such other powers and duties as shall be prescribed by the Board of Supervisors; and

9. Appoint an executive secretary to manage the affairs and operations of the board or commission.

In furtherance of the discharge of its responsibilities, an appointive board, commission or other unit of government may:

10. Hold hearings and take testimony; and

11. Retain temporary counsel for specific purposes, subject to the consent of the Mayor and the City Attorney.

Each board or commission, relative to the affairs of its own department, shall deal with administrative matters solely through the department head or his or her designees, and any dictation, suggestion or interference herein prohibited on the part of any member of a board or commission shall constitute official misconduct; provided, however, that nothing herein contained shall restrict the board or commission's powers of hearing and inquiry as provided in this Charter.

SEC. 4.103. BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS – ANNUAL REPORT.

As of the operative date of this Charter and until this requirement is changed by the Board of Supervisors, each board and commission of the City and County shall be required by ordinance to prepare an annual report describing its activities, and shall file such report with the Mayor and the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors. The Annual Report can be included in the Annual Statement of Purpose as provided for in Section [4.102](#)(2).

SEC. 4.104. BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS – RULES AND REGULATIONS.

(a) Unless otherwise provided in this Charter, each appointive board, commission or other unit of government of the executive branch of the City and County shall:

1. Adopt rules and regulations consistent with this Charter and ordinances of the City and County. No rule or regulation shall be adopted, amended or repealed, without a public hearing. At least ten days' public notice shall be given for such public hearing. All such rules and regulations shall be filed with the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors.

2. Hold meetings open to the public and encourage the participation of interested persons. Except for the actions taken at closed sessions, any action taken at other than a public meeting shall be void. Closed sessions may be held in accordance with applicable state statutes and ordinances of the Board of Supervisors.

3. Keep a record of the proceedings of each regular or special meeting. Such record shall indicate how each member voted on each question. These records, except as may be limited by state law or ordinance, shall be available for public inspection.

(b) The presence of a majority of the members of an appointive board, commission or other unit of government shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business by such body. The term "presence" shall include participation by teleconferencing or other electronic means as authorized by Government Code Section 54953(b) or any successor legislation after the Board of Supervisors has adopted an ordinance pursuant to subsection (c) allowing such participation when the member is physically unable to attend in person, as certified by a health care provider, due to the member's pregnancy, childbirth, or related condition. The Board of Supervisors may also, as part of a parental leave policy adopted pursuant to subsection (c), authorize a member of a board or commission to participate in meetings by teleconferencing or other electronic means when the member is absent to care for his or her child after birth of the child, or after placement of the child with the member or the member's immediate family for adoption or foster care. Unless otherwise required by this Charter, the affirmative vote of a majority of the members shall be required for the approval of any matter, except that the rules and regulations of the body may provide that, with respect to matters of procedure the body may act by the affirmative vote of a majority of the members present, so long as the members present constitute a quorum. All appointive boards, commissions or other units of government shall act by a majority, two-thirds, three-fourths or other vote of all members. Each member present at a regular or special meeting shall vote "yes" or "no" when a question is put, unless excused from voting by a motion adopted by a majority of the members present.

(c) Notwithstanding the provisions of Charter Section [10.101](#), the Board of Supervisors shall provide by ordinance for parental leave policies for members of

appointive boards, commissions or other units of government, including, but not limited to, authorization to participate in meetings by teleconferencing or other electronic means pursuant to subsection (b) and subject to the restrictions listed in that subsection.

(Amended by Proposition B, Approved 11/7/2006)

SEC. 4.118. COMMISSION ON THE ENVIRONMENT.

The Commission on the Environment shall consist of seven members appointed by the Mayor, pursuant to Section 3.100, for four-year terms. Members may be removed by the Mayor.

The Department of the Environment shall regularly produce an assessment of San Francisco's environmental condition. It shall also produce and regularly update plans for the long-term environmental sustainability of San Francisco.

Pursuant to the policies and directives set by the Commission, and under the supervision and direction of the department head, the Department shall manage the environmental programs, duties and functions assigned to it pursuant to Section 4.132 or by ordinance.

The Commission shall have the authority to review and make recommendations on any policy proposed for adoption by any City agency regarding conformity with the long-term plans for environmental sustainability, except for those regarding building and land use.

The Commission may investigate and make recommendations to all City agencies related to operations and functions, such as:

1. Solid waste management;
2. Recycling;
3. Energy conservation;
4. Natural resource conservation;
5. Environmental inspections;
6. Toxics;
7. Urban forestry and natural resources;
8. Habitat restoration; and
9. Hazardous materials.

The Commission shall conduct public education and outreach to the community on environmental issues, including, but not limited to each of the categories listed above.