



CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO IMMIGRANT RIGHTS COMMISSION

**San Francisco Immigrant Rights Commission
Executive Committee Meeting
1155 Market Street, 4th Floor Conference Room
April 24, 2024 at 5:30 pm PDT**

Online: <https://sfpublish.webex.com/sfpublish/j.php?MTID=mc06ce231286d68d0c492e2d283d4f3aa>

Phone: 1-415-655-0001 / Access code: 2661 890 1049 / Password: 2024

Overview: Members of the Commission will attend this meeting in person. Members of the public are invited to observe the meeting in-person or remotely using Webex or by calling the phone number and entering the access code above. Everyone attending the meeting in person is encouraged to wear a mask throughout the meeting. Each member of the public attending in person may address the Commission for up to two minutes. Public speakers using consecutive interpretation assistance will be allowed to speak for twice the amount of the time.

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

Vice Chair Chaudhary called the meeting to order at 5:38 p.m.

Present: Chair Kennelly (5:50 p.m.), Vice Chair Chaudhary, Commissioners Paz, Ricarte, Souza.

Also present: Commissioner Obregon.

OCEIA staff present: Director Rivas, Clerk Shore.

2. Ramaytush Ohlone Land Acknowledgment

We, the San Francisco Immigrant Rights Commission, acknowledge that we are on the unceded ancestral homeland of the Ramaytush Ohlone who are the original inhabitants of the San Francisco Peninsula. As the indigenous stewards of this land and in accordance with their traditions, the Ramaytush Ohlone have never ceded, lost nor forgotten their responsibilities as the caretakers of this place, as well as for all peoples who reside in their traditional territory. As guests, we recognize that we benefit from living and working on their traditional homeland. We wish to pay our respects by acknowledging the ancestors, elders and relatives of the Ramaytush Community and by affirming their sovereign rights as First Peoples.

Vice Chair Chaudhary read the land acknowledgment statement.

3. General Public Comment

This item is to allow members of the public to address the Commission on matters that are within the subject matter jurisdiction of the Commission and that do not appear on today's agenda.

There was no public comment.

4. Action Item: Approval of previous minutes

(Discussion/Action)

Discussion and possible action to approve the minutes of the Immigrant Rights Commission's Executive Committee meeting of March 27, 2024.

[IRC Executive Committee meeting minutes 3.27.24](#)

Commissioner Souza motioned to approved the minutes, seconded by Commissioner Ricarte. There was no public comment on this item. The motion was approved by the four Commissioners present.

5. Discussion/Action Items

(Discussion/Action)

a. Language Access Ordinance and Language Access Compliance Report Hearing

This item allows Director Rivas to provide an update on the upcoming Language Access Ordinance and Language Access Compliance Report hearing and allows the Executive Committee to discuss and take possible action.

Director Rivas provided an update on the language access hearing and press conference scheduled for May 6, 2024. Commissioners can send their comments to the Commission Chair and Vice Chair. Director Rivas will share the proposed amendments to the Language Access Ordinance with the Full Commission.

b. Immigrant Leadership Award Recipients (Commissioners Ricarte and Obregon)

This item allows Commissioners Ricarte and Obregon to present the list of nominees recommended by the Awards Committee and allows the Executive Committee to discuss the recommendations, make any final changes to the list, and finalize and vote on the 2024 Immigrant Leadership Award recipients.

This item was heard out of order.

Commissioners Obregon and Ricarte provided an overview of the Awards Committee's recommendations, and Director Rivas and Commissioners discussed the nominees. The Executive Committee narrowed down the recipients to one in each category for entrepreneur leader and Vera Haile champion of justice, and added two special recognition recipients. Chair Kennelly motioned to approve the slate of recipients as amended, seconded by Commissioner Ricarte. There was no public comment on this

item. The motion was approved by the five Executive Committee members present.

c. Immigrant Leadership Awards Event Planning (Director Rivas)

This item allows Director Rivas to provide an update on the Immigrant Leadership Awards event scheduled for June 10, 2024 at City Hall.

This item was heard out of order.

Director Rivas provided an update on the Immigrant Leadership Awards event planned for June 10, 2024 at City Hall. He invited Commissioners to share ideas of potential performers for the event. He will share the list of consulates with the Awards Committee, and the awards outreach toolkit with all Commissioners. He asked Commissioners to invite guests, follow up with Consulates, and share with their networks.

d. Proposed Letter on City Priorities (Commissioner Obregon)

This item allows Commissioner Obregon to discuss the letter she drafted regarding City priorities and allows the Executive Committee to discuss and take possible action. This item was introduced during New Business at the Full Commission's January 8, 2024 meeting and has not yet been voted on by the Executive Committee or reviewed by the Full Commission. During its April 8, 2024 meeting, the Full Commission voted to approve the IRC retreat action plan, which includes adding two items from the Commission's Strategic Planning Retreat to the letter being drafted.

Commissioner Obregon provided an overview of the latest draft letter. Commissioners provided feedback and suggestions, and Commissioner Obregon agreed to revise the draft letter and send it to the Commission Chair and OCEIA staff for their edits. Vice Chair Chaudhary motioned to move the draft letter forward, pending revisions and edits, seconded by Commissioner Ricarte. There was no public comment on this item, and the motion was approved. Director Rivas asked Commissioner Obregon to complete the revision by May 8.

e. IRC Strategic Planning Retreat Follow-Up

This item allows the Executive Committee to discuss follow-up actions from the IRC Strategic Planning Retreat on March 11, 2024. Commissioners identified newcomers and workforce development as their top two priorities for the year, and the Full Commission approved the action plan at its April 8, 2024 meeting.

Chair Kennelly reviewed the action plan approved by the Full Commission, and

Commissioners provided updates on each activity. Commissioner Obregon will include the priority items in her draft letter. Vice Chair Chaudhary will review current newcomer plans, and Commissioner Paz discussed the recent City hearing on newcomer family housing and plans for a Commission hearing on the subject. Faith in Action has published a summary of community requests, and Commissioner Souza noted the importance of clarifying the role of City departments to identify existing resources. Director Rivas said the committee can discuss the timeline of the hearing at a later date. Commissioner Souza said the Commission can discuss follow-up actions on workforce development after it releases its recommendations, and Commissioner Paz discussed a regional joint statement by mayors and potential challenges in outreach and coordination.

f. Proposed Statement on DACA and Sanctuary City

This item allows the Executive Committee to discuss, and take possible action on, issuing a statement affirming the Commission's support for Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) and San Francisco's sanctuary status. On September 13, 2023, the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Texas found the DACA final rule to be unlawful, and the case is expected to reach the U.S. Supreme Court. During the October 25, 2023 IRC Executive Committee meeting, Chair Kennelly suggested that the statement include a reference to the Commission's hearing on workforce development. On October 30, 2023, the Full Commission voted to empower the Commission Chair to issue a statement.

Chair Kennelly deferred this item to the next Executive Committee meeting.

g. Proposed Statement on Expansion of Medi-Cal

This item allows Commissioner Paz to propose issuing a statement on the expansion of Medi-Cal to all California residents, regardless of immigration status, and allows the Executive Committee to discuss and take possible action. Commissioner Paz introduced this item under New Business during the January 22, 2024 Executive Committee meeting, and volunteered to draft a statement.

Commissioner Paz presented an overview of the IRC statement he drafted on Medi-Cal's expansion. Once approved, Director Rivas said OCEIA can translate the statement and share it on social media. Chair Kennelly asked Commissioners to share their edits with Commissioner Paz and OCEIA staff. Chair Kennelly motioned to move the draft forward to the Full Commission, pending edits by the Executive Committee and OCEIA by May 8. Vice Chair Chaudhary seconded the motion. There was no public comment on this item, and the motion was approved by the five Executive Committee members present.

6. Staff Reports

(Information)

a. Director's Updates

Report on OCEIA and IRC activities and announcements. This item allows the OCEIA Director to provide brief updates on activities and announcements. If the Commission would like a full report, we can place that matter on the agenda for a future meeting.

Director Rivas noted that the Executive Committee's current meeting space will no longer be available, and the next meeting may need to be canceled or postponed.

h. Update on IRC Workforce Recommendations

This item allows Director Rivas to provide an update on the workforce recommendations approved by the Full Commission at its April 8, 2024 meeting.

Director Rivas will send out the workforce recommendations.

i. Follow-up on IRC Housing Recommendations and Resolution

This item allows Director Rivas to provide an update on the housing recommendations and resolution approved by the Full Commission at its April 8, 2024 meeting.

Director Rivas will send out the housing recommendations and resolution.

7. Old and New Business

(Information)

This item is to allow Commissioners to provide updates on items the Commission has previously discussed, and to introduce new agenda items for future consideration by the Commission.

Vice Chair Chaudhary suggested moving forward with her proposed letter addressing delays in asylum interviews. The Executive Committee has discussed issuing a letter, but has not yet voted to move it forward. At its January 22, 2024 meeting, Director Rivas suggested meeting with USCIS to raise these concerns first. However, the meeting has not yet taken place. The item will be added to the next Executive Committee meeting agenda.

8. Adjournment

Chair Kennelly adjourned the meeting at 7:11 p.m.

