



CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO

IMMIGRANT RIGHTS COMMISSION

**San Francisco Immigrant Rights Commission
Full Commission Meeting
San Francisco City Hall, Room 416
April 8, 2024 at 5:30 pm PDT**

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

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

Present: Chair Kennelly, Vice Chair Chaudhary (5:41 p.m.), Commissioners Abdou, Fara, Ng, Obregon, Paz, Qiu, Ricarte, Ruiz, Senghor, Souza.

Not present: Commissioners Enssani (excused), Gaime, Wang (excused).

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.

Chair Kennelly 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. Welcoming New Commissioners

(Information)

This item allows the Commission Chair and Secretary to welcome the two newly appointed Commissioners, and allows each new Commissioner to make very brief remarks.

- a. Aseel Fara
- b. Jose Ng

Chair Kennelly congratulated newly appointed Commissioners Fara and Ng, and invited them to speak. Commissioners Fara and Ng made brief remarks and said they look forward to working with the Commission.

5. Action Item: Approval of previous minutes

(Discussion/Action)

Discussion and possible action to approve the minutes of the Immigrant Rights Commission's Full Commission meeting of March 11, 2024.

Vice Chair Chaudhary motioned to approve the minutes from March 11, 2024, seconded by Commissioner Qiu. Chair Kennelly called for public comment and there was no public comment on this item. The motion was approved by the 12 Commissioners present.

6. Discussion/Action Items

(Discussion/Action)

a. Approval of IRC Policy and Action Plan

This item allows the Chair and Vice Chair to review the activities the Commission plans to accomplish this year under each of its two priority areas, along with the lead Commissioners for each activity, as discussed at the Commission's strategic planning retreat; and allows the Commission to take action to approve the plan. The Commission came up with a plan during the retreat, but did not vote to approve it due to a lack of quorum.

Chair Kennelly motioned to approve the Commission's policy and action plan, seconded by Commissioner Obregon. Chair Kennelly called for public comment and there was no public comment on this item. The motion was approved by the 12 Commissioners present.

b. 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 press conference; allows the Chair to provide an update on the Executive Committee's discussion of the proposed amendments; and allows the Commission to discuss and take possible action.

Director Rivas provided an update on the hearing tentatively scheduled for May 6 and invited Commissioners to share their feedback with Chair Kennelly and Vice Chair Chaudhary. Chair Kennelly noted that the Executive Committee discussed the proposed amendments at its last meeting. In response to a question from Commissioner Abdou, Director Rivas said he will share with Supervisor Walton's Office Commissioner Abdou's suggestion on how the City responds if there is an influx of new immigrants due to war, as well as Commissioners' suggestions on crisis response and threshold languages. Chair Kennelly asked Director Rivas to share the new version of the proposed amendments with Commissioners. In response to a question from Commissioner Fara, Policy and Civic Engagement Officer Chloe Noonan presented data from OCEIA's language diversity dashboards based on U.S. Census data. In response to a question from Commissioner Ng, Chair Kennelly noted that the proposed amendments are informed by community testimony from the Commission's special hearings on language access. Director Rivas noted that OCEIA also provides quarterly presentations on complaints related to the Language Access Ordinance.

c. IRC Awards Committee Update

This item allows Awards Committee Co-Chairs Ricarte and Obregon and OCEIA staff to provide an update on nominations and planning for the Immigrant Leadership Awards scheduled for June 10, 2024 at City Hall.

Commissioner Ricarte provided an update on the Immigrant Leadership Awards nominations. The Awards Committee will meet April 9, 2024 to review nominations and make recommendations. The Immigrant Leadership Awards is scheduled for June 10, 2024.

d. Follow-Up from IRC Special Hearing on Workforce Development

This item allows Commissioner Souza and OCEIA staff to present a draft report on the IRC's special hearing on workforce development. Clerk Shore drafted the report based on recommendations by community members during the October 30, 2023 hearing called by Commissioner Souza. The report was approved by the Executive Committee at its March 27, 2024 meeting.

Commissioner Souza presented the recommendations from the Commission's workforce hearing, and thanked Director Rivas and Clerk Shore for their work writing the report.

Commissioner Qiu suggested an amendment and Commissioner Paz motioned to approve the report as amended, seconded by Commission Obregon. Chair Kennelly called for public comment and there was no comment on this item. The motion was approved by the 12 Commissioners present.

- e. Follow-up Actions from IRC Hearing on Immigrant Perspectives on Housing in San Francisco

This item allows Commissioner Souza to present a draft report on the IRC's special hearing on housing, and allows the Commission to discuss and take possible action. Commissioner Souza drafted the report based on recommendations by community members during the September 12, 2022 hearing. The report was approved by the Executive Committee at its March 27, 2024 meeting.

This item was heard together with item 6f. Commissioner Souza presented the housing report and resolution, and Commissioner Obregon suggested an amendment to the resolution. Vice Chair Chaudhary motioned to approve the report as written and the resolution as amended, seconded by Commissioner Souza. Chair Kennelly called for public comment and there was no comment on this item. The motion was approved by the 12 Commissioners present.

- f. Proposed Resolution on Affordable Housing

This item allows Commissioner Souza to present a resolution she drafted on affordable housing, and allows the Commission to discuss and take possible action. The resolution was approved by the Executive Committee at its March 27, 2024 meeting.

This item was heard and approved as part of item 6e.

7. 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 welcomed the new Commissioners, and reminded Commissioners that their Statements of Economic Interests (Form 700) were due on April 2, 2024. He presented an overview of his meeting with Ukrainian community members as a follow-up to the Ukrainian community members' testimony at a Full Commission meeting. He

also thanked OCEIA staff for the recent San Francisco Pathways to Citizenship Initiative workshop.

8. 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.

There was no new or old business.

9. Adjournment

Chair Kennelly adjourned the meeting at 6:32 p.m.