



CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO

IMMIGRANT RIGHTS COMMISSION

**San Francisco Immigrant Rights Commission
Executive Committee Meeting
1145 Market Street, Suite 100
June 26, 2024 at 5:30 pm PDT**

Online: <https://sfpublish.webex.com/sfpublish/j.php?MTID=m6f51e68aad6f6d470be1123b905ad73>

Phone: 1-415-655-0001 / Access code: 2662 039 7450 / 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**

Chair Kennelly called the meeting to order at 6:08 p.m.

Present: Chair Kennelly, Vice Chair Chaudhary, Commissioner Paz.

Excused: Commissioners Ricarte, Souza.

Also present: Commissioners Abdou, Fara.

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.

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. 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 April 24, 2024.

Commissioner Paz motioned to approve the minutes from April 24, 2024, seconded by Vice Chair Chaudhary. Chair Kennelly called for public comment and there was no public comment on this item. The motion was approved.

5. Discussion/Action Items

(Discussion/Action)

a. 2024 Immigrant Leadership Awards

(Discussion)

This item allows Awards Committee Co-Chairs Ricarte and Obregon to provide a recap of the 2024 Immigrant Leadership Awards.

Chair Kennelly, Vice Chair Chaudhary and Director Rivas thanked Awards Committee Co-Chairs Ricarte and Obregon, OCEIA staff, and Commissioners for a successful event, and Commissioner Paz noted that the awards were an uplifting event in a time of uncertainty.

b. Proposed Letter Addressing Delays in Asylum Interviews (Vice Chair Chaudhary)

(Discussion/Action)

This item allows the Executive Committee to discuss, and take possible action on, issuing a letter of inquiry to USCIS to address the delays in asylum interviewing and processing. Vice Chair Chaudhary has drafted a letter of inquiry to USCIS. 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. Vice Chair Chaudhary re-introduced this item under New and Old Business during the Executive Committee's April 24, 2024 meeting.

Vice Chair Chaudhary proposed issuing a letter to USCIS and asked for input on her draft. Chair Kennelly suggested an edit and motioned to move the amended letter forward, seconded by Commissioner Paz. Chair Kennelly called for public comment and there was no public comment on this item. The motion was approved. Director Rivas said OCEIA staff would copy edit the letter and share it with the Mayor's Office.

- c. Proposed Resolution on Immigrant-Owned Small Businesses (Commissioner Souza)
(Discussion/Action)

This item allows Commissioner Souza to propose a resolution acknowledging the contributions of immigrant-owned small businesses. This item was introduced under New Business at the Full Commission's May 13, 2024 meeting.

This item was deferred.

- d. IRC Actions Concerning Needs of Ukrainian Community Members (Commissioner Obregon)
(Discussion/Action)

This item allows Commissioner Obregon to discuss possible actions the Commission can take related the needs of Ukrainian community members. This item was introduced under New Business at the Full Commission's May 13, 2024 meeting.

Chair Kennelly recommended scheduling a meeting with the Chair, Vice Chair, Director Rivas and Ukrainian community leaders. Director Rivas agreed.

- e. IRC Actions Concerning 2011 HRC Report, "Community Concerns of Surveillance, Racial and Religious Profiling of Arab, Middle Eastern, Muslim, and South Asian Communities and Potential Reactivation of SFPD Intelligence Gathering" (Commissioner Fara)
(Discussion/Action)

This item allows Commissioner Fara to discuss possible actions the Commission can take related to the 2011 HRC report, "Community Concerns of Surveillance, Racial and Religious Profiling of Arab, Middle Eastern, Muslim, and South Asian Communities and Potential Reactivation of SFPD Intelligence Gathering." This item was introduced under New Business at the Full Commission's May 13, 2024 meeting.

In response to a question from Commissioner Fara, Chair Kennelly, Commissioner Paz and OCEIA staff provided information on actions the Commission has taken related to Arab, Middle Eastern, Muslim, and South Asian communities, including various hearings following the release of the HRC report, hearings on the Muslim ban, the impacts of the civil war in Yemen on Yemeni community members, and at the San Francisco Muslim Community Center. Director Rivas offered to meet with Commissioner Fara to review actions the Commission can take. Commissioner Paz discussed the impact of the national political landscape on all immigrant communities, and what the Commission can do to protect immigrants and support upholding San Francisco's sanctuary policy.

f. IRC Actions Concerning Medi-Cal Expansion (Commissioner Abdou)
(Discussion/Action)

This item allows Commission Abdou to discuss additional actions the Commission can take related to the expansion of Medi-Cal. On May 13, 2024, the IRC voted to amend and approve a statement on the Medi-Cal expansion.

In response to a question from Commissioner Abdou, Commissioner Paz provided information on communications efforts by DPH, HSA, and organizations including Children Now related to the Medi-Cal expansion. Once the IRC's statement is translated, Director Rivas said Commissioners can send it out to their networks. Commissioner Abdou requested that the Medi-Cal statement be translated into Arabic.

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.

There were no updates.

b. Language Access Ordinance Amendments

This item allows Director Rivas to provide an update on the Language Access Ordinance [amendments](#) and [resolution](#).

Director Rivas thanked Commissioners for their engagement in the amendment process, and provided an update on the approved Language Access Ordinance amendments and resolution.

c. Update on IRC Letter on City Priorities

This item allows Director Rivas to provide an update on the IRC letter on City priorities, which was amended and approved at the May 13, 2024 Full Commission meeting.

The letter on City priorities was submitted to the Mayor's Office and the Board of Supervisors.

d. Update on IRC Statement on Medi-Cal Expansion

This item allows Director Rivas to provide an update on the IRC statement on the Medi-

Cal expansion, which was amended and approved at the May 13, 2024 Full Commission meeting.

The IRC statement on Medi-Cal is currently being translated.

- e. Reappointment Hearings for Board-Appointed Commissioners
Five Board-appointed Commissioners are up for reappointment by the Board of Supervisors as of June 6, 2024.

Director Rivas provided an update on the reappointment hearings for Board-appointed Commissioners.

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.

There was no old or new business.

8. Adjournment

Chair Kennelly adjourned the meeting at 7:17 p.m.