



# CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO IMMIGRANT RIGHTS COMMISSION

**San Francisco Immigrant Rights Commission  
Executive Committee Meeting  
1145 Market Street, Suite 100  
July 24, 2024 at 5:30 pm PDT**

**Online:** <https://sfpublish.webex.com/sfpublish/j.php?MTID=m640a783ae16d825ddf1c6578336a0575>

**Phone:** 1-415-655-0001 / Access code: 2662 912 1913 / 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 5:31 p.m.

Present: Vice Chair Chaudhary, Commissioners Paz, Souza.

Excused: Chair Kennelly, Commissioner Ricarte.

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 June 26, 2024.

[IRC Executive Committee meeting minutes – June 26, 2024](#)

Commissioner Souza motioned to approve the June 26, 2024 Executive Committee meeting minutes, seconded by Commissioner Paz. There was no public comment on this item. The minutes were approved by the three Executive Committee members present.

**5. Discussion/Action Items**

*(Discussion/Action)*

- a. Proposed Letter Addressing Delays in Asylum Interviews (Vice Chair Chaudhary)  
(Discussion/Action)

This item allows the Executive Committee to discuss the latest draft of the IRC letter of inquiry to USCIS addressing the delays in asylum interviewing and processing. The letter was written by Vice Chair Chaudhary and edited by the Executive Committee and OCEIA staff. 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 Old and New Business during the Executive Committee's April 24, 2024 meeting. During its June 26, 2024 meeting, the Executive Committee made an edit to the draft and voted to move the letter forward, and Director Rivas said OCEIA would edit the letter and share with the Mayor's Office.

Vice Chair Chaudhary asked Commissioners for their feedback on the latest draft letter, and they did not provide any further edits. The letter was approved at the Executive Committee's June 26, 2024 meeting, and will go to the Full Commission for a vote on September 9, 2024.

- b. 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.

Commissioner Souza will submit a draft resolution for the next Executive Committee

meeting.

- c. 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 to the needs of Ukrainian community members. This item was introduced under New Business at the Full Commission's May 13, 2024 meeting.

Chair Kennelly, Vice Chair Chaudhary, Director Rivas, and Clerk Shore will meet with Ukrainian community members and provide an update on the meeting at the next Executive Committee meeting.

- d. Follow-Up Actions from Workforce Recommendations  
(Discussion/Action)

This item allows Director Rivas and the Executive Committee to discuss follow-up actions from the Commission's workforce recommendations, including writing a letter to the Department of Human Resources regarding employment-based immigration pathways.

Director Rivas proposed drafting a letter to the San Francisco Department of Human Resources (DHR) requesting that DHR support and sponsor City employees. OCEIA has met with DHR and connected them with Path 2 Papers. Commissioner Souza volunteered to draft the letter or provide input. Director Rivas will work with Commissioner Souza to draft the letter.

## 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 provided an update on Commissioners whose seats are up for reappointment by the Board of Supervisors, OCEIA's first work authorization clinic on August 9, 2024, and the San Francisco Pathways to Citizenship Initiative workshop on August 24, 2024.

b. Language Access Ordinance Amendments

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

OCEIA's Policy and Civic Engagement Officer Chloe Noonan will present at the September Full Commission meeting on the new Language Access Ordinance (LAO) amendments and their impact on City departments and the Commission. Each City department must prepare and budget resources for their own language services. Supervisor Walton requested that the Budget and Legislative Analyst issue a report on the City's current budget, and any additional resources and staffing needed to comply with the LAO amendments. OCEIA is mapping out timelines of implementation based on City resources. This month, OCEIA will conduct trainings for City departments' language access liaisons on their responsibilities under the LAO and its amendments.

c. 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.

OCEIA has translated the IRC statement on the expansion of Medi-Cal into Spanish, Chinese, Filipino, and Arabic, posted it on the IRC website, and shared it on social media. Director Rivas will send the statement to all Commissioners to share with their networks.

**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.

Commissioner Paz said the IRC has been invited to submit a quote for a press release in support of the Destination Reception Assistance Act (Markey, D-MA). Director Rivas said the Chair (and in her absence, the Vice Chair) may speak on behalf of the Commission on issues the Commission has already calendared and voted on. Vice Chair Chaudhary volunteered to draft a general quote. Clerk Shore will share information about the bill with the Executive Committee, and Director Rivas will share it with the Mayor's Office.

Vice Chair Chaudhary asked Commissioners to begin thinking about organizing a special hearing in the fall in light of the presidential elections.

Commissioner Paz met with the Mayor's Office to ask for a regional statement in support of sanctuary policies and immigrant communities, as a way to counter xenophobic narratives in the lead-up to the election. He also suggested holding a special hearing on the City's strategy. Commissioner Souza suggested keeping the special hearing (on a topic yet to be determined) separate from the regional statement. Vice Chair Chaudhary suggested that the regional statement and special hearing be added to the next Executive Committee as two separate agenda items.

Commissioner Paz noted that he will be on sabbatical beginning in September.

**8. Adjournment**

Vice Chair Chaudhary adjourned the meeting at 6:08 p.m.