



CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO IMMIGRANT RIGHTS COMMISSION

**San Francisco Immigrant Rights Commission
Executive Committee Meeting
1145 Market Street, Suite 100
August 28, 2024 at 5:30 pm PDT**

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

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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 5:46 p.m.

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

Staff present: Director Rivas, Clerk Sarabia.

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 July 24, 2024.

[IRC Executive Committee meeting minutes – July 24, 2024](#)

Vice Chair Chaudhary motioned to approve the minutes of July 24, 2024, seconded by Commissioner Souza. 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. 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 introduced a draft resolution and invited Commissioners to provide feedback. Director Rivas discussed the timing of the resolution before the holiday season and the possibility of issuing a joint resolution with the Small Business Commission. Commissioner Paz recommended adding data points and Vice Chair Chaudhary made a suggested edit. Commissioner Souza will work with OCEIA staff and bring the resolution to the next Executive Committee meeting.

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

This item allows Chair Kennelly and Vice Chair Chaudhary to report back on their meeting with Ukrainian community members. This item was introduced by Commissioner Obregon under New Business at the Full Commission's May 13, 2024 meeting.

Chair Kennelly provided an update on the meeting that she, Vice Chair Chaudhary and OCEIA staff held with Ukrainian community leaders on community needs, and the roles of the IRC and OCEIA. Director Rivas connected them with the Mayor's Office of Housing

and Community Development (MOHCD) and Human Services Agency (HSA). Commissioner Paz also suggested referring them to JFCS. Director Rivas will follow up with them.

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

This item allows Director Rivas and the Executive Committee to discuss drafting a letter to the San Francisco Department of Human Resources (DHR) requesting that DHR support and sponsor City employees.

Director Rivas presented the letter drafted by Clerk Shore as a follow-up to the Commission's workforce development hearing. Commissioner Paz suggested that the letter include sharing best practices with other employers in San Francisco.

d. Proposed Statement to Counter Anti-Immigrant Narrative (Commissioner Paz)
(Discussion/Action)

This item allows Commissioner Paz to propose a statement in support of sanctuary policies and immigrant communities, or another action to counter xenophobic narratives in the lead-up to the election. This item was introduced by Commissioner Paz under New Business during the Executive Committee's July 24, 2024 meeting.

Commissioner Paz provided an update on a meeting with the Mayor's Office. In his absence, Director Rivas will follow up with the Mayor's Office. Director Rivas discussed the September 17, 2024 press conference on Citizenship Day as a way to celebrate immigrants and their contributions.

e. IRC Special Hearing
(Discussion/Action)

This item allows the Executive Committee to discuss possible dates, topic ideas, objectives, and outcomes for the next IRC special hearing. This item was introduced by Vice Chair Chaudhary under New Business during the Executive Committee's July 24, 2024 meeting.

Vice Chair Chaudhary suggested a special hearing on the challenges of community members in integrating socially in San Francisco and the effects of anti-immigrant narratives. Director Rivas suggested holding a special hearing after the elections on immigration policy and what the City can do. Vice Chair Chaudhary agreed that a special hearing after the election would be more helpful. Commissioner Souza and Commissioner Paz volunteered to support Vice Chair Chaudhary.

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.

Director Rivas provided an update on the City budget, the amendments to the Language Access Ordinance, and the San Francisco Pathways to Citizenship Initiative workshops.

b. Update on Commission Appointments

This item allows Director Rivas to provide updates on Mayoral and Board of Supervisors appointments to the Immigrant Rights Commission.

Director Rivas provided an update on Mayoral appointments to the Commission. Commissioners will be sworn in before the September 9, 2024 Full Commission meeting. Commissioners Wang and Abdou have been reappointed, and a new Commissioner has been appointed. Commissioner Ricarte and Commissioner Qiu will be recognized at the next Full Commission meeting. Commissioners up for reappointment by the Board of Supervisors are encouraged to re-apply for their seats. Commissioner Paz will be on sabbatical beginning in September.

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

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. During the July 24, 2024 Executive Committee meeting, Commissioners did not make any further edits.

Director Rivas provided an update on the letter drafted by Vice Chair Chaudhary. Chair Kennelly and Vice Chair will meet with USCIS before the next Full Commission meeting.

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 discussed a Board of Supervisors resolution in support of legacy businesses, and Commissioner Souza said the IRC resolution can include language on legacy businesses.

8. Adjournment

Chair Kennelly adjourned the meeting at 6:33 p.m.