



# CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO

## IMMIGRANT RIGHTS COMMISSION

**San Francisco Immigrant Rights Commission  
Full Commission Meeting  
San Francisco City Hall, 1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, Room 416  
May 13, 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 5:48 p.m.

Present: Chair Kennelly, Vice Chair Chaudhary, Commissioners Abdou (5:53 p.m.) Fara, Ng, Obregon, Paz, Ruiz, Senghor, Souza, Wang.

Not present: Commissioners Enssani, Ricarte (excused), Gaime, Qiu (excused).

OCEIA staff present: Director Rivas, Clerk Shore, Senior Spanish Language Specialist Cosenza, Policy and Civic Engagement Officer Noonan, Language Services Supervisor Ruiz.

### 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.

David Bogachik read a collective statement from the Ukrainian Refugees Community San

Francisco Bay Area about the community's need for public funds. Community leaders spoke at the Commission's February 12, 2024 meeting about their need for resources, and attended a subsequent meeting with Director Rivas to discuss possible partnership opportunities.

Chair Kennelly thanked him for his public comment and noted and that the Immigrant Rights Commission does not have any oversight of OCEIA's grantmaking.

**4. 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 April 8, 2024.

Vice Chair Chaudhary motioned to approve the minutes of April 8, 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. Language Access Ordinance Quarterly Complaint Report

*(Information/Discussion/Action)*

Information, discussion, and possible action to adopt the quarterly Language Access Ordinance complaint report. This item allows Policy and Civic Engagement Officer Noonan to provide the Commission with an overview of the complaints OCEIA has received and investigated from members of the public regarding the City's language services.

OCEIA Policy and Civic Engagement Officer Noonan provided an update on complaints OCEIA has received and investigated from members of the public regarding the City's language services and answered questions from Commissioners. OCEIA received two complaints related to the Department of Homelessness and Supportive Housing (HSH) and the San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency (SFMTA).

[Language Access Ordinance Quarterly Complaint Report 5.13.24](#)

b. Language Access Ordinance Update – Proposed Amendments and Hearing

*(Information/Discussion/Action)*

This item allows Director Rivas to provide an update on the [proposed amendments](#) to

the Language Access Ordinance and the May 6, 2024 press conference and hearing, and allows the Commission to discuss and take possible action.

Director Rivas thanked the Chair, Vice Chair, and Commissioners who participated in the press conference and hearing on language access, and provided an overview of two additional amendments that were introduced today. In response to a question from Commissioner Ng, Director Rivas discussed the role of the Commission and asked for feedback from Commissioners. Chair Kennelly highlighted the importance of the Commission's active role in overseeing the City's Language Access Ordinance. The amendments are expected to go to the Full Board of Supervisors on June 4 and June 11.

c. 2024 Immigrant Leadership Awards

This item allows Awards Committee Co-Chairs Ricarte and Obregon to provide an update on award recipients and allows Director Rivas to provide an update on event planning for the Immigrant Leadership Awards scheduled for June 10, 2024 at City Hall. Commissioners are encouraged to invite community members and share the event on social media.

Awards Committee Co-Chair Obregon thanked Commissioners for their nominations and thanked the Awards Committee and the Executive Committee for selecting this year's honorees. Director Rivas provided an overview of the awards event planned by OCEIA staff and reminded Commissioners to invite community members and share with their networks.

d. Proposed Statement on Medi-Cal Expansion

This item allows Commissioner Paz to propose issuing a statement on the expansion of Medi-Cal to all Californians, regardless of immigration status, and present his draft statement to the Full Commission. At its April 24, 2024 meeting, the Executive Committee voted to move the draft statement forward to the Full Commission. Once the statement is approved, Director Rivas said OCEIA can translate it into the required languages and post on social media.

Commissioner Paz proposed issuing a statement on the expansion of Medi-Cal, and invited Commissioners to provide feedback on the draft statement. Commissioners discussed the draft and suggested edits. Commissioner Abdou asked about how to ensure that Medi-Cal employees receive training on the policy. Commissioner Souza motioned to approve the statement with the amendments and suggested that the Executive Committee invite Commissioner Abdou to their next meeting to discuss outreach to immigrant communities and her concerns about education on the issue.

Commissioner Obregon seconded the motion. Chair Kennelly called for public comment and there was no public comment on this item. The motion was approved.

e. Proposed Letter on City Priorities

This item allows Commissioner Obregon to discuss the letter she drafted regarding City priorities and allows the Full Commission to discuss and take possible action. This item was introduced during New Business at the Full Commission's January 8, 2024 meeting and on April 8, 2024, the Full Commission voted to include two items from the Commission's strategic planning retreat in the letter being drafted. At its April 24, 2024 meeting, the Executive Committee suggested edits to the draft letter, and voted to move the draft forward to the Full Commission once Commissioner Obregon revises the letter.

Commissioner Obregon presented the draft letter and Commissioners made suggested edits. Commissioner Souza motioned to approve the letter with the amendments, seconded by Vice Chair Chaudhary. Chair Kennelly called for public comment and there was no public comment on this item. The motion was approved and Director Rivas will send the final version to City leaders.

**6. Staff Reports**  
*(Information)*

a. Director's Updates

Report on OCEIA and IRC activities and announcements. This item allows Director Rivas 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 updates on OCEIA's activities, including the upcoming San Francisco Pathways to Citizenship workshops, the 10-year anniversary of the DreamSF Fellowship program, and OCEIA's move to a new office.

b. 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.

OCEIA has shared the workforce recommendations with City departments.

c. Update 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.

OCEIA has shared the housing recommendations and resolution with the Mayor, Board of Supervisors and City departments.

**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.

Chair Kennelly invited Commissioners to introduce new or old business items.

Commissioner Souza proposed issuing a resolution on immigrant small businesses.

Commissioner Obregon requested an agenda item on the needs of Ukrainian refugees, and Chair Kennelly said the item would be added to the next Executive Committee meeting agenda.

Commissioner Fara requested that the Executive Committee add an item to its next meeting agenda on the Commission's work serving Arab, Middle Eastern, Muslim, and South Asian communities.

**8. Adjournment**

Chair Kennelly adjourned the meeting at 7:27 p.m.