



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
September 9, 2024 at 5:30 pm PDT

Online: <https://sfpublish.webex.com/sfpublish/j.php?MTID=m5700a437f250bc186de69c38033f5621>

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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 5:38 p.m.

Present: Chair Kennelly, Vice Chair Chaudhary, Commissioners Abdou, Fara, Ng, Obregon (5:43 p.m.), Ratanapakdee, Ruiz, Senghor, Souza, Wang.

Not present: Commissioners Essani (excused), Gaime (excused), Paz (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 acknowledgement 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 Full Commission meeting of May 13, 2024.

[IRC Full Commission meeting minutes – May 13, 2024](#)

Commissioner Wang motioned to approve the May 13, 2024 Full Commission meeting minutes, seconded by Vice Chair Chaudhary. Chair Kennelly called for public comment and there was no comment on this item. The minutes were approved by the 11 Commissioners present.

5. Recognizing Commissioner Ricarte

This item allows Chair Kennelly and Director Rivas to recognize Commissioner Ricarte for his service on the Commission, and allows Commissioner Ricarte to make brief remarks.

Chair Kennelly, Director Rivas and Commissioners Obregon and Wang recognized Commissioner Ricarte for his eight years of service on the Commission, including his passion, enthusiasm, and leadership on the Awards Committee and the Executive Committee.

6. Recognizing Commissioner Qiu

This item allows Chair Kennelly and Director Rivas to recognize Commissioner Qiu for his service on the Commission, and allows Commissioner Qiu to make brief remarks.

Chair Kennelly and Director Rivas recognized Commissioner Qiu for his service on the Commission since 2023, including his insightful questions and thoughtful guidance on the amendments to the Language Access Ordinance.

7. Welcoming Commissioner Ratanapakdee

This item allows Chair Kennelly and Director Rivas to welcome Commissioner Ratanapakdee to the Commission, and allows Commissioner Ratanapakdee to make brief remarks.

Chair Kennelly and Director Rivas welcomed Commissioner Ratanapakdee. Commissioner Ratanapakdee introduced herself as a Thai-Chinese Southeast Asian immigrant and discussed her work fighting hate and injustice following the loss of her father.

8. Discussion/Action Items

- a. Language Access Ordinance Quarterly Complaint Report

(Information/Discussion)

Information and discussion on 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 received no new language access complaints between June and September 2024. Policy and Civic Engagement Officer Noonan reviewed the complaints received during the previous quarter and provided an overview of her follow-ups with the San Francisco Department of Homelessness and Supportive Housing (SFHSH) and the San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency (SFMTA).

b. Language Access Ordinance Amendments and Next Steps

(Information/Discussion)

This item allows Policy and Civic Engagement Officer Noonan to provide an overview of the [Language Access Ordinance amendments](#) and next steps, and allows the Commission to discuss them.

Policy and Civic Engagement Officer Noonan provided an overview of the amendments to the Language Access Ordinance and answered questions from Commissioners.

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

(Discussion/Action)

This item allows Vice Chair Chaudhary to propose issuing a letter addressing delays in asylum interviews, and allows the Commission to discuss and take possible action to approve the letter. The letter was approved by the Executive Committee on June 26, 2024.

Commissioners discussed the letter drafted by Vice Chair Chaudhary, and Commissioner Ng suggested an edit. Commissioner Souza motioned to approve the amended letter on asylum delays, 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 11 Commissioners present.

9. Chair Reports

(Information)

a. Chair's Updates

This item allows Chair Kennelly to provide brief updates and announcements on the

Executive Committee's work.

Chair Kennelly provided an overview of the Executive Committee's work, including a resolution on small business proposed by Commissioner Souza, and follow-up actions on the workforce recommendations.

b. Report-Back on Meeting with Ukrainian Community Members

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.

Vice Chair Chaudhary provided an update on the Chair and Vice Chair's meeting with Ukrainian community members and answered questions from Commissioners. Director Rivas will meet with them again after they have met with other City departments.

c. Scheduling of upcoming meetings

This item allows the Chair to provide updates on the scheduling of upcoming IRC meetings.

Due to the holiday, the Commission's next meeting has been rescheduled to October 28, 2024.

10. 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.

Director Rivas reminded the Board-appointed Commissioners whose seats are up for renewal to submit their applications. He thanked Commissioner Ng for participating in a press conference on the launch of the 311 app in multiple languages.

b. Citizenship Day Press Conference

This item allows Director Rivas to invite Commissioners to a press conference planned for September 17, 2024 in celebration of Citizenship Day.

Director Rivas thanked Chair Kennelly for speaking at the upcoming Citizenship Day

press conference on September 17, 2024, and invited other Commissioners to join the press conference.

11. 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.

12. Adjournment

Chair Kennelly adjourned the meeting at 7:11 p.m.