



# CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO IMMIGRANT RIGHTS COMMISSION

**San Francisco Immigrant Rights Commission  
Executive Committee Meeting  
1145 Market Street, Suite 100  
October 23, 2024 at 5:30 pm PDT**

**Online:** <https://sfpublish.webex.com/sfpublish/j.php?MTID=m9ab5c85abcb0a6da1f7d30c8b0d9a6c4>

**Phone:** 415-655-0001 / Access code: 2664 683 6347 / Webinar 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 5:40 p.m.

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

OCEIA staff present: Director Rivas, Clerk Shore, Immigrant Economic Inclusion Specialist Leos.

## **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 September 25, 2024.

[IRC Executive Committee meeting minutes – September 25, 2024](#)

Vice Chair Chaudhary motioned to approve the September 25, 2024 minutes, seconded by Commissioner Souza. Chair Kennelly called for public comment and there was no public comment on this item. The minutes were approved.

**5. Discussion/Action Items**

*(Information/Discussion/Action)*

a. Welcoming America Certification

*(Information/Discussion)*

This item allows OCEIA Deputy Director Richard Whipple and Immigrant Economic Inclusion Specialist Sayde Leos to provide the Executive Committee with information about the [Welcoming America](#) certification process.

Director Rivas introduced OCEIA's immigrant economic inclusion specialist, Sayde Leos, who provided an overview of Welcoming America and its certification timeline and answered questions from Commissioners. Chair Kennelly said the Commission would support the process in any way they can.

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

This item allows the Executive Committee to discuss the resolution drafted by Commissioner Souza on immigrant-owned small businesses. This item was introduced under New Business at the Full Commission's May 13, 2024 meeting. During the August 28, 2024 Executive Committee meeting, Commissioners suggested edits to the draft, and during the September 25, 2024 Executive Committee meeting, Director Rivas provided an update on his meeting with Office of Small Business Director Katy Tang.

Commissioner Souza presented the proposed resolution and made several edits. Director Rivas suggested adding another clause, and Vice Chair Chaudhary and Chair Kennelly suggested additional edits to the draft. Vice Chair Chaudhary motioned to approve the amended resolution and move it to the Full Commission meeting, seconded

by Chair Kennelly. Chair Kennelly called for public comment and there was no public comment on this item. The motion was approved.

c. **Planning of Upcoming IRC Hearings and Events**  
(Discussion/Action)

This item allows Chair Kennelly to discuss the scheduling and planning of upcoming Commission meetings and events, including a possible event in December and a special hearing on the new federal administration in the new year.

Chair Kennelly reviewed the rescheduling of upcoming Commission meetings, and Commissioners discussed planning for the holiday event and special hearing.

**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 activities by OCEIA and the City of San Francisco. OCEIA is hosting a training session for community-based organizations on online immigration tools on October 30, and a work permit clinic on November 6. San Francisco Mayor Breed has signed onto a Cities for Action letter calling on the Department of Homeland Security to extend work permits and end work permit backlogs.

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

The letter written by Vice Chair Chaudhary was approved by the Executive Committee on June 26, 2024, and by the Full Commission on September 9, 2024.

Director Rivas connected Vice Chair Chaudhary with the office of USCIS to set up a 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.

Commissioner Souza asked for an update on Latino homelessness and families living in RVs. Director Rivas said OCEIA's Community Ambassadors have helped with outreach and connecting

individuals to resources. OCEIA and the San Francisco Department of Homelessness and Supportive Housing (HSH) have met with some newly arrived families experiencing homelessness. Commissioner Souza suggested that the Commission invite advocates and HSH to provide an update on how this is impacting immigrant families in San Francisco.

Vice Chair Chaudhary asked about sending the letter on asylum delays, and Chair Kennelly suggested that the Chair and Vice Chair meet with the asylum office first.

**8. Adjournment**

Chair Kennelly adjourned the meeting at 6:40 p.m.