



CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO

IMMIGRANT RIGHTS COMMISSION

San Francisco Immigrant Rights Commission
Executive Committee Meeting
January 25, 2023 at 5:30 pm PST

Online: <https://sfgov.webex.com/sfgov/j.php?MTID=m888e4631fc6eaf1714d651f9c2a3800>

Phone: 1-415-655-0001 / Access code: 2497 888 5055

Note: As authorized by California Government Code Section 54953(e) and the Mayor's 45th Supplement to her February 25, 2020 emergency proclamation, this meeting will be held remotely without providing a physical location. Members of the Immigrant Rights Commission will participate and vote by video. Members of the public may observe the meeting and provide public comment online. View [instructions](#) for providing public comment.

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

Chair Kennelly called the meeting to order at 5:37 p.m.

Present: Chair Kennelly, Vice Chair Paz, Executive Committee Members Ricarte, Souza (5:40 p.m.); Commissioners Chaudhary, Latt.

OCEIA Staff present: Director Rivas, Clerk Shore, Operations and Grants Administrator Chan, Deputy Director Whipple.

2. Ramaytush Ohlone Land Acknowledgment

This item is to allow the Commission Chair to acknowledge that the Commission is on the unceded ancestral homeland of the Ramaytush Ohlone who are the original inhabitants of the San Francisco Peninsula.

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. Welcoming New Director Jorge Rivas (Chair Kennelly and Vice Chair Paz)

This item is to allow the Chair and Vice Chair to welcome new OCEIA Director Jorge Rivas, and to allow Director Rivas to make brief remarks.

Chair Kennelly and Vice Chair Paz welcomed Jorge Rivas, the new director of OCEIA and secretary of the Immigrant Rights Commission, and invited him to make remarks. Director Rivas introduced himself and provided an overview of his background and career. He thanked Deputy Director Whipple for his leadership as acting director of OCEIA and acting secretary of the Commission.

Chair Kennelly called for public comment, and there was no public comment on this item.

5. Action Item: Approval of previous minutes

(Discussion/Action)

- a. Approval of November 30, 2022 Executive Committee Meeting Minutes
Discussion and possible action to approve the minutes of the Immigrant Rights Commission's Executive Committee meeting of November 30, 2022. Explanatory Document: [IRC Executive Committee Meeting Minutes – November 30, 2022](#)

Commissioner Souza motioned to approve the minutes from the November 30, 2022 Executive Committee Meeting, seconded by Commissioner Ricarte. Chair Kennelly called for public comment, and there was no public comment on this item. The minutes were approved unanimously.

6. Invited Speaker: Angelina Romano, District Coordinator, Refugee and Immigrant Solidarity in Education (RISE-SF), Student and Family Services Division, SFUSD

(Discussion/Action)

- a. Update on Newcomer Students at SFUSD
This item allows Angelina Romano to provide an update on newcomer students at SFUSD and allows the Executive Committee to discuss possible follow-up actions. This is a follow-up item to the letter the Commission sent SFUSD requesting additional mental health and other resources for newcomer students. The letter was drafted by Commissioner Souza and sent on November 7, 2022.

Chair Kennelly invited Vice Chair Paz to facilitate this agenda item. Vice Chair Paz provided an overview of the letter the Commission sent to SFUSD and introduced Angelina Romano. District Coordinator Romano discussed her work and answered questions from Commissioners. She noted that schools have seen an increase in new students from Venezuela, Peru, Ukraine, Cuba, and Nicaragua. She discussed the need for more services and housing for newcomer students and their families. Commissioner Souza asked if she could to provide data on families dealing with overcrowding or lack of access to housing.

7. Discussion/Action Items

(Discussion/Action)

a. Scheduling/Planning of 2023 IRC Retreat and Officer Elections

Discussion and possible action by Chair Kennelly to begin scheduling and planning for the 2023 IRC Retreat and Officer Elections.

Chair Kennelly suggested that the Commission hold its retreat on March 20 (rescheduled from March 13) or the Commission's regular meeting date of April 10.

b. Awards Committee Planning (Commissioner Ricarte)

This item allows the Chair to appoint co-chairs and members of the Awards Committee, and allows Commissioners to discuss planning for the Immigrant Leadership Awards and scheduling of Awards Committee meetings.

Chair Kennelly appointed Commissioner Chaudhary as a member of the Awards Committee, and asked Commissioner Ricarte when he would like to schedule committee meetings. She suggested that he invite Commissioners at the next Full Commission meeting. Commissioner Ricarte discussed awards planning and will schedule the first meeting for late February. Chair Kennelly noted that part of Commissioners' role is inviting community members to the awards event.

c. Language Access Committee Planning (Commissioner Souza)

This item allows the Executive Committee to discuss scheduling a Language Access Committee meeting and/or inviting language access speakers to an upcoming Full Commission meeting.

Chair Kennelly asked Commissioner Souza for an update. Commissioner Souza said she asked Chair Kennelly and OCEIA staff about inviting presenters on language access to a committee or Full Commission meeting. Chair Kennelly suggested that the Commission invite the presenters to its February 13, 2023 Full Commission meeting, when OCEIA will present the results of its Language Access Compliance Summary Report. Commissioner Souza agreed.

d. Planning for Special Hearing on LGBTQ Immigrants (Commissioner Latt)

This item allows Commissioner Latt and the Executive Committee to discuss and take possible action to plan for a special hearing or other possible actions by the Commission on LGBTQ immigrants.

Chair Kennelly asked Commissioner Latt for an update. Commissioner Latt suggested that the Commission invite several organizations to present on transgender immigrants, and asked about the timing of such a hearing. The Executive Committee discussed possible dates for the hearing. Deputy Director Whipple can provide additional speakers to invite. Chair Kennelly suggested that the Commission consider holding the hearing in May. She will reach out to Commissioner Latt and OCEIA staff to begin planning the hearing.

- e. Follow-Up Actions from Policy Updates at Previous Full Commission Hearing
This item allows the Executive Committee to discuss follow-up actions related to the policy updates presented by Acting Director Whipple at the January 9, 2021 Full Commission meeting regarding the uncertain future of Deferred Action of Childhood Arrivals (DACA) and proposed increases to immigration application fees.

Chair Kennelly stated that she contacted the Mayor's Office about the possibility of submitting a comment on the proposed fee increase, and will let the Executive Committee know what they say. She suggested that the Commission discuss DACA at its retreat, and Vice Chair Paz agreed.

- f. Follow-up Actions from IRC Hearing on Immigrant Perspectives on Housing in San Francisco
Discussion and possible action to plan follow-up actions on the Commission's September 12, 2022 hearing on immigrant perspectives on housing in San Francisco. Commissioner Souza volunteered to draft recommendations from the hearing. Explanatory Document: [IRC Hearing on Immigrant Perspectives on Housing in San Francisco](#)

Commissioner Souza said she is working on drafting a report on the Commission's hearing on housing, and will share a draft for the next Executive Committee meeting.

- g. Follow-up Actions on Guaranteed Income Program for Immigrants in San Francisco
Discussion and possible action to plan follow-up actions regarding a guaranteed income program for immigrants in San Francisco. This is a follow-up to the presentation by Chiamaka Ogwuegbu of the Mayor's Office at the November 14, 2022 Full Commission meeting.

Vice Chair Paz stated that he did not have any new developments to report on this item. Community members have pushed for a guaranteed income program for immigrants, although the City is currently facing resource challenges. Deputy Director Whipple noted

that the Mayor's Office had requested additional data from community partners to understand the challenges and what a pilot program might look like.

Chair Kennelly called for public comment and there was no public comment on this item.

Chair Kennelly left the meeting at 6:49 p.m., and Vice Chair Paz facilitated the remainder of the meeting.

8. Staff Reports *(Information)*

a. Staff Updates

Report on OCEIA and IRC activities and announcements. This item allows OCEIA staff 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.

Deputy Director Whipple provided an overview of OCEIA and IRC activities and announcements. The next San Francisco Pathways to Citizenship Initiative workshop is scheduled for March 25 at the Southeast Community Center. The DreamSF Fellows program is open for applications. OCEIA will issue the Language Access Compliance Summary Report to the Immigrant Rights Commission on February 1, 2023, and will provide an overview of the report at the next Full Commission meeting. He also provided a policy overview of Welcome Corps, a new program announced by the Biden administration that allows private residents to sponsor refugees.

Deputy Director Whipple announced that all Commissions will be returning to in-person meetings beginning in March 2023. If a Commissioner has a disability that prevents them from attending in person, the Commissioner can request a reasonable accommodation from the Department of Human Resources (DHR).

He also provided an update on a question that Commissioners had raised at the previous Full Commission meeting. The Deputy City Attorney confirmed that Commissioners may not abstain during votes. They are required to vote yes or no, unless they recuse themselves from the vote due to a conflict of interest. The Commission may also invite the Deputy City Attorney to a future meeting.

The Vice Chair called for public comment, and there was no public comment on this item.

9. 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. The Vice Chair called for public comment, and there was no public comment on this item.

10. Adjournment

Vice Chair Paz welcomed Director Rivas, and thanked fellow Commissioners and OCEIA staff. He adjourned the meeting at 7:04 p.m.