



# CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO IMMIGRANT RIGHTS COMMISSION

## San Francisco Immigrant Rights Commission

### Full Commission Meeting

January 9, 2023 at 5:30 pm PST

Online: <https://sfgov.webex.com/sfgov/j.php?MTID=m632f4684bc139aa7a8bcc32571e93c3c>

Phone: 1-415-655-0001 / Access code: 2481 456 7697

**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 5:42 p.m.

Present: Chair Kennelly, Vice Chair Paz, Commissioners Chaudhary, Enssani, Gaime, Latt, Obregon, Rahimi, Ricarte, Senghor, Souza, Wang (5:50 p.m.)

Not present: Commissioner Ruiz

Staff present: Acting Director Whipple, Commission Clerk Shore, Operations and Grants Administrator Chan, Policy and Civic Engagement Officer Noonan

### 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 Commissioners (Chair Kennelly and Vice Chair Paz)**

This item is to allow the Chair and Vice Chair to welcome the two newly appointed Commissioners, and to allow the new Commissioners to make brief remarks.

- a. Kudrat Chaudhary
- b. Marco Senghor

Chair Kennelly congratulated Commissioners Enssani, Gaime, and Ruiz on their reappointment to the Commission, and she and Acting Director Whipple welcomed the two newly appointed Commissioners, Commissioners Chaudhary and Senghor. Commissioners Chaudhary and Senghor introduced themselves and look forward to serving on the Commission. Commissioner Chaudhary moved to the United States in 2018 and currently works as a gender rights specialist. Commissioner Senghor is an African immigrant from Senegal and business owner of Bissap Baobab in the Mission.

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

**5. Recognizing Commissioner Ryan Khojasteh (Chair Kennelly and Vice Chair Paz)**

This item is to allow the Chair and Vice Chair to recognize Commissioner Ryan Khojasteh for his contributions to the Commission, and to allow Commissioner Khojasteh to make brief remarks.

Chair Kennelly, Acting Director Whipple, and Vice Chair Paz recognized Commissioner Ryan Khojasteh for his leadership on the Commission and his advocacy on behalf of immigrant communities. Commissioner Khojasteh thanked the Commission and OCEIA staff. He was appointed to the Commission six years ago, at the age of 23 when he was in his first semester of law school. He said it was an honor to serve on the Commission, and hopes to work together with Commissioners in the future.

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

**6. Action Item: Resolution to Allow Teleconferenced Meetings**

*(Discussion/Action)*

- a. Adoption of resolution making findings to allow teleconferenced meetings under California Government Code Section 54953(e)  
Discussion and possible action to approve a resolution making findings to allow for continued remote meetings due to the COVID-19 emergency. Explanatory Document: [Findings Resolution](#)

Vice Chair Paz made a motion to adopt the resolution, seconded by Commissioner Ricarte. Chair Kennelly called for public comment and there was no public comment on this item. The motion was approved unanimously.

**7. Action Item: Approval of previous minutes**

*(Discussion/Action)*

- a. Approval of November 14, 2022 Full Commission Meeting Minutes  
Discussion and possible action to approve the minutes of the Immigrant Rights Commission's November 14, 2022 Full Commission meeting. Explanatory Document: [IRC Full Commission minutes - November 14, 2022](#)

Commissioner Wang made a motion to approve the November 14, 2022 Full Commission meeting minutes, seconded by Commissioner Enssani. Chair Kennelly called for public comment and there was no public comment on this item.

Commissioner Gaime asked if she could abstain from the vote since she was not present at the November 14, 2022 meeting. Acting Director Whipple said that according to the guidance from the Deputy City Attorney, Commissioners may not abstain. Commissioner Ricarte asked if Commissioners could vote present. Commissioner Gaime asked Acting Director Whipple to follow up with the Deputy City Attorney to provide the Commission with more information about the guidance and its rationale.

The motion was approved with 10 Commissioners voting to approve the minutes and two Commissioners (Commissioners Gaime and Ricarte) voting present.

**8. Chair and Vice Chair Reports**

*(Information/Discussion)*

- a. Chair and Vice Chair's Updates and 2023 Preview (Chair Kennelly and Vice Chair Paz)  
This item allows the Chair and Vice Chair to provide brief updates on the work of the Commission and preview the year ahead, including the IRC Strategic Planning Retreat, the Immigrant Leadership Awards, and a possible hearing on LGBTQ immigrants proposed by Commissioner Latt.

Chair Kennelly stated that Commissioner Latt had proposed a special hearing on LGBTQ immigrants, and asked Commissioner Latt for an update. Commissioner Latt stated that he was unable to attend the Parivar Bay Area conference. Acting Director Whipple and Clerk Shore provided an overview of the conference, which was attended by OCEIA staff and Commissioner Ruiz. Acting Director Whipple noted that Parivar Bay Area had asked

to speak to the Commission. Commissioner Latt suggested that the Commission invite Parivar and several other organizations and asked about the timeline. Chair Kennelly asked Commissioner Latt to take the lead in planning the hearing, and he agreed. Chair Kennelly invited him to attend the next Executive Committee meeting.

- b. Immigrant Leadership Awards Committee (Chair Kennelly, Commissioner Ricarte, Acting Director Whipple)

Information on the 2023 Immigrant Leadership Awards, which honors the contributions of local immigrant leaders and champions of immigrant committees, and possible action by the Commission Chair to nominate the Awards Committee Co-Chairs, and invite Commissioners to join the Awards Committee.

Chair Kennelly provided an overview of the Immigrant Leadership Awards. Commissioner Ricarte provided more information about the awards and invited all Commissioners to attend the first Awards Committee meeting.

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

## **9. Staff Reports**

*(Information)*

- a. Director's Updates

Report on OCEIA and IRC activities and announcements. This item allows the Director 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.

Acting Director Whipple announced that OCEIA's new executive director, Jorge Rivas, would take office on January 17, 2023. The next San Francisco Pathways to Citizenship Initiative workshop is scheduled for January 14, 2023. OCEIA is in the process of completing the Language Access Ordinance report. OCEIA is also continuing to convene meetings with community members to plan and prepare for the arrival of asylum seekers.

- b. Policy Updates

This item allows the director to provide brief updates on immigration policy, including the Biden administration's new border enforcement actions, USCIS's Notice of Proposed Rulemaking to adjust certain immigration and naturalization fees, and the state of Title 42 and Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA).

Acting Director Whipple provided brief policy updates. A court decision is expected on the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) rule, and the decision is expected to be appealed, potentially to the U.S. Supreme Court. Title 42 remains in effect for now, and the Biden Administration has expanded it to nationals of Cuba, Haiti, and Nicaragua, in addition to Venezuela, along with the announcement of a parole program for those four countries. USCIS has proposed a new fee schedule which would increase fees for various immigration benefits.

Commissioner Rahimi asked if the Commission could submit a public comment on the proposed changes to the fee schedule. Chair Kennelly noted that the Commission must first consult with the Mayor's Office.

Vice Chair Paz asked what the Commission could do locally on DACA. Acting Director Whipple and Commissioner Souza stated that the Commission could lift up existing models, protections, and resources for DACA recipients and other immigrants. Chair Kennelly asked OCEIA staff to include follow-up actions on DACA on the agenda for the next Executive Committee meeting.

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

**10. 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 Paz stated that the Executive Committee would invite Angelina Romano of the San Francisco Unified School District (SFUSD) to its next meeting as a follow-up to the Commission's letter to SFUSD requesting additional resources for newcomer students. The letter was drafted by Commissioner Souza and sent by the Commission on November 7, 2022.

Chair Kennelly called for public comment.

Adoubou Traore, executive director of the African Advocacy Network, congratulated the Commission on its two African Commissioners, Commissioners Gaime and Senghor. He

requested to report to the Commission on the work of his organization and discuss how to work more closely together.

**11. Adjournment**

Chair Kennelly thanked OCEIA staff and Commissioners and adjourned the meeting at 6:45 p.m.