



# CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO IMMIGRANT RIGHTS COMMISSION

## San Francisco Immigrant Rights Commission Executive Committee Meeting February 22, 2023 at 5:30 pm PST

**Online:** <https://sfgov.webex.com/sfgov/j.php?MTID=m9b58aee00f20194b28bfc89e28143fef>

**Phone:** 1-415-655-0001 / Access code: 2496 738 4212 / Webinar password: IRC2023 (4722023 from phones)

**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 5:36 p.m.

Present: Chair Kennelly, Vice Chair Paz, Executive Committee Members Ricarte, Souza; Commissioner Rahimi.

OCEIA staff present: Director Rivas, Commission Clerk Shore, Operations and Grants Administrator Chan, Policy and Civic Engagement Officer Noonan, 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. Action Item: Approval of previous minutes

*(Discussion/Action)*

- a. Approval of January 25, 2023 Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

Discussion and possible action to approve the minutes of the Immigrant Rights Commission's Executive Committee meeting of January 25, 2023. Explanatory Document: [Executive Committee meeting minutes – January 25, 2023](#)

Commissioner Souza motioned to approve the January 25, 2023 Executive Committee meeting minutes, seconded by Commissioner Ricarte. Chair Kennelly called for public comment and there was no public comment on this agenda item. The motion was approved by the four Executive Committee members present.

## 5. 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 asked Commissioners for their input on the timing of the 2023 IRC retreat, and scheduled it for April 10, 2023 at 3:00 p.m. She asked OCEIA staff to send Commissioners a pre-retreat survey and add retreat planning to the next Executive Committee meeting agenda.

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. The first meeting has been scheduled for February 27, 2023 at 5:00 pm.

Commissioner Ricarte stated that the first Awards Committee meeting will take place February 27, 2023 at 5:00 p.m.

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

This item allows Commissioner Latt and the Executive Committee to discuss and plan for a special hearing on LGBTQ immigrants.

Chair Kennelly asked OCEIA staff about the location of the May 8, 2023 hearing on LGBTQ immigrants. Operations and Grants Administrator Chan will contact the venue after learning about the technological needs for hybrid meetings. Commissioners discussed organizations to invite to the hearing. Chair Kennelly asked about the focus of the hearing, and Deputy Director Whipple suggested highlighting changes to the asylum

system and the needs of transgender and gender nonconforming immigrants, as well as the services the City currently offers, and any existing gaps or needs for community members.

- d. Follow-Up Actions on City Advocacy Related to Proposed Immigration Fee Changes  
This item allows the Executive Committee to discuss follow-up actions related to the resolution the Commission voted to issue on USCIS's proposed changes to immigration application fees, which Commissioner Rahimi agreed to draft.

Chair Kennelly asked Commissioner Rahimi to read aloud the resolution on USCIS's proposed immigration fee changes. At the suggestion of Director Rivas and Clerk Shore, Chair Kennelly recommended adding data specific to San Francisco. Chair Kennelly noted that the Full Commission had voted to issue the resolution, and sent it to the Executive Committee to finalize and issue. Clerk Shore noted that the deadline to write a public comment had been extended by one week to March 13, 2023. Chair Kennelly motioned that she and Vice Chair Paz would finalize and issue the resolution. Commissioner Souza seconded the motion. Chair Kennelly called for public comment and there was no public comment on this agenda item. The motion was approved unanimously by the four Executive Committee members present: Chair Kennelly, Vice Chair Paz, Commissioner Ricarte, and Commissioner Souza.

- e. Follow-up Actions on Advocacy Related to Immigrant Workers at Risk of Losing Visas  
This item allows the Executive Committee to discuss follow-up actions related to the statement the Commission voted to issue on immigrant workers at risk of losing their visas, which Commissioner Chaudhary agreed to draft.

OCEIA staff provided an update from Commissioner Chaudhary, who was unable to join the meeting and is working on drafting the statement.

- 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.

Commissioner Souza said she will share her draft with the Executive Committee.

- g. Follow-up Actions on Language Access Presentation  
This item allows the Executive Committee to discuss possible follow-up actions related

to the presentations on language access at the February 13, 2023 Immigrant Rights Commission Full Commission meeting.

Chair Kennelly suggested that the Executive Committee take time to review the language access recommendations presented at the Commission's February 13, 2023 meeting. Director Rivas agreed and provided an update on the process to amend the Language Access Ordinance. The Commission can propose its own recommendations or support some of the community recommendations. Commissioner Souza suggested inviting Supervisor Walton's staff to provide an update. Director Rivas said he can provide updates to the Commission and recommended inviting Supervisor Walton's staff when they are ready to hear input from the Commission.

h. Advocacy Related to Proposed Changes to City Sanctuary Policies

This item allows the Executive Committee to discuss proposed changes to San Francisco's sanctuary policies, discuss actions the IRC can take, and take possible action.

Chair Kennelly discussed the proposals related to San Francisco's sanctuary city policies. Clerk Shore provided an update on the timing of Supervisor Ronen's resolution and Supervisor Dorsey's ordinance. Chair Kennelly stated that the Commission has always stood firmly behind San Francisco's sanctuary city ordinance. Vice Chair Paz suggested that the Commission issue a statement reaffirming its position. Commissioner Ricarte agreed and Commissioner Souza asked about past attacks on the city's sanctuary status. Chair Kennelly said she and Vice Chair Paz will draft a statement to send to OCEIA staff. Vice Chair Paz asked OCEIA staff to send them past statements the Commission has issued on the subject. Chair Kennelly called for public comment and there was no public comment on this agenda item.

**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. If the Commission would like a full report, we can place that matter on the agenda for a future meeting.

Director Rivas noted that the Commission will return to in-person meetings in March. He provided an update on the DreamSF fellowship program, which is accepting applications from potential fellows and host sites. The San Francisco Pathways to Citizenship Initiative workshop is scheduled for March 25, 2023 in the Bayview. Commissioners are

encouraged to share with their networks and invited to volunteer.

b. **Statement of Economic Interests (Form 700)**

This item allows OCEIA staff to remind Commissioners to submit their Statement of Economic Interests (Form 700) through NetFile by April 1, 2023.

Director Rivas reminded Commissioners to file their Statement of Economic Interests (Form 700) and to let Clerk Shore know if they would like business cards. Clerk Shore noted that Commissioners should file the Form 700 electronically through NetFile as they did last year. Chair Kennelly called for public comment and there was no public comment on this agenda item.

**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.

There was no old or new business. Chair Kennelly called for public comment and there was no public comment on this agenda item.

**8. Adjournment**

Chair Kennelly thanked Commissioners and OCEIA staff and confirmed that the next Full Commission meeting would take place on March 20, 2023. Chair Kennelly adjourned the meeting at 6:37 p.m.