



# CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO

## IMMIGRANT RIGHTS COMMISSION

**San Francisco Immigrant Rights Commission  
Executive Committee Meeting  
1155 Market Street, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor Conference Room  
March 29, 2023 at 6:00 pm PDT**

**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, whether attending remotely or 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. Members of the public attending the meeting in person will have an opportunity to provide public comment on every item. In addition to in-person public comment, the Commission will hear up to 20 minutes of remote public comment on each agenda item. The Commission will hear remote public comment on each item in the order that commenters add themselves to the queue to comment on the item. Because of the 20-minute time limit, it is possible that not every person in the queue will have an opportunity to provide remote public comment. Remote public comment from people who have received an accommodation due to disability will not count toward the 20-minute limit.

### **1. Call to Order and Roll Call**

Chair Kennelly called the meeting to order at 5:42 p.m.

Executive Committee Members present: Chair Kennelly, Vice Chair Paz, Commissioner Souza.

Excused: Commissioner Ricarte.

Other Commissioners present: Commissioner Latt.

OCEIA Staff present: Director Rivas, Grants and Operations Administrator Chan.

### **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 February 22, 2023 Executive Committee Meeting Minutes  
Discussion and possible action to approve the minutes of the Immigrant Rights Commission's Executive Committee meeting of February 22, 2023. Explanatory Document: Executive Committee meeting minutes – February 22, 2023

Commissioner Souza motioned to approve the minutes, seconded by Vice Chair Paz. The minutes were approved by the three 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 plan for the 2023 IRC Retreat and Officer Elections.

Chair Kennelly invited Director Rivas to provide an update on the IRC Strategic Planning Retreat and Officer Elections. Director Rivas announced that the retreat will be held April 10, 2023 at 3:00 p.m. at 1155 Market Street, in the 4<sup>th</sup> floor conference room. Commissioners have confirmed their attendance and there is currently a quorum if all confirmed Commissioners attend. He reminded Commissioners to complete the pre-retreat survey which will inform the content of the retreat. Director Rivas will send out the officer nominations forms and OCEIA staff will facilitate the retreat.

- b. Planning for Special Hearing on LGBTQ Immigrants (Commissioner Latt)  
This item allows Commissioner Latt and the Executive Committee to discuss plans for the May 8, 2023 special hearing on LGBTQ immigrants.

Commissioner Latt provided an update on invited speakers for the special hearing on LGBTQ immigrants. Director Rivas suggested that sponsors and speakers be confirmed at least 30 days in advance. Commissioner Latt will confirm them by April 7, and announce it at the retreat.

- c. Awards Committee Planning (Commissioner Ricarte)  
This item allows Commissioner Ricarte and the Executive Committee to discuss planning for the Immigrant Leadership Awards.

Chair Kennelly invited Director Rivas to provide an update on the awards. The nomination forms are open, and Commissioners are encouraged to share with their networks and submit their own nominations. The Immigrant Leadership Awards event will take place June 12, 2023 at City Hall. Director Rivas asked the Commission for help fundraising, noting that the Commission is looking for artists, performers, food and beverages, a catering company, support to cover the cost of the venue, printing the program, videography and photography, and decorations. Director Rivas said Commissioners will be asked to invite community members to the event.

d. Follow-up Actions on Advocacy Related to Immigrant Workers at Risk of Losing Visas (Commissioner Chaudhary)

This item allows the Executive Committee to discuss and vote on the draft statement by Commissioner Chaudhary on immigrant workers at risk of losing their visas. This item is a follow-up to the Full Commission's February 13, 2023 vote to issue a statement.

Vice Chair Paz asked if San Francisco had authority to provide a stopgap measure since this is a federal matter. Director Paz can ask the Deputy City Attorney. Commissioner Souza recommended reframing the statement to make it broader and focus on upholding labor laws. Vice Chair Paz suggested researching statements by Forward.us, the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, and other national organizations that have addressed the issue. Commissioner Latt suggested taking an advocacy approach to push for a policy change from USCIS. Chair Kennelly asked Commissioners to provide feedback electronically and continued this item to the next Executive Committee meeting.

e. Follow-up Actions on Advocacy Related to Proposed Asylum Rule (Commissioner Chaudhary)

Update on the Commission's actions related to the proposed asylum rule, "Circumvention of Lawful Pathways." This item is a follow-up to the Full Commission's March 20, 2023 vote to write a public comment on the proposed rule.

Chair Kennelly provided an update on the Commission's actions. The Full Commission voted to provide public comment on the proposed rule, and Commissioner Chaudhary wrote the comment. OCEIA shared the comment with the Mayor's Office, who empowered the Commission to submit it. The comment was submitted by OCEIA staff. Director Rivas thanked Commissioner Chaudhary for submitting finalized language to OCEIA staff.

f. Proposed Resolutions on Federal Immigration Reform and California Domestic Workers

Bill SB-686 (Commissioner Souza)

This item allows Commissioner Souza to propose resolutions in support of federal immigration reform and in support of California bill SB-686 (Durazo), and allows the Executive Committee to discuss and take possible action.

Commissioner Souza provided an overview of her two proposed resolutions. Vice Chair Paz voiced support for the resolution in support of California bill SB-686. He noted that the Commission has supported comprehensive immigration reform in the past when it was introduced in Congress and there was a chance of it passing. He stated that the potential end of DACA was a more pressing concern, and noted that a bipartisan Dream Act has been reintroduced in Congress. If DACA ends, he said the City must have a plan. Commissioner Souza noted that the intent behind the resolution is that the Commission must push for all immigrants, not only DACA recipients. Commissioner Souza suggested amending the resolution to highlight DACA.

The Executive Committee will provide final edits and comments on the resolution in support of SB-686. Commissioner Souza will edit the resolution on immigration reform to highlight DACA.

Vice Chair Paz and Commissioner Souza suggested using the retreat to discuss what the City can do if DACA comes to an end.

Chair Kennelly made a motion that the Chair and Vice Chair will issue a resolution in support of SB-686 on behalf of the Executive Committee, following edits by the Executive Committee and OCEIA. Vice Chair Paz seconded the motion. Chair Kennelly called for public comment and there was no public comment on this item. The motion was approved by the three Executive Committee members present. Executive Committee members will send their edits to Commissioner Souza, who will send the final language to OCEIA staff.

g. Follow-up Actions from IRC Hearing on Immigrant Perspectives on Housing in San Francisco (Commissioner Souza)

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 provided an overview of the document she submitted to the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee will review the report and recommendations. Chair Kennelly asked Executive Committee members to provide their

feedback to Commissioner Souza. Commissioner Souza suggested that the Executive Committee review the draft before sending a final draft to the Full 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. This is a follow-up to the Executive Committee's discussion at its February 22, 2023 meeting, when Chair Kennelly and Vice Chair Paz volunteered to draft a statement.

Chair Kennelly and Vice Chair Paz are working on a draft statement in support of San Francisco's sanctuary policy.

i. IRC Annual Report

This item allows the Director to present the IRC Annual Report drafted by OCEIA on the Commission's work during 2022, invite the Executive Committee to review and edit the report's recommendations, and take possible action.

Director Rivas presented the draft IRC 2023 annual report, written by Clerk Shore and designed by Senior Communications Specialist Richardson. He asked Commissioners for their comments and suggestions on the report recommendations. Chair Kennelly thanked OCEIA staff. Chair Kennelly, Vice Chair Paz and Commissioner Souza voiced their support of the recommendations as written. Vice Chair Paz made a motion to adopt the report as written, with an opportunity for minor edits. Commissioner Souza seconded the motion. Chair Kennelly called for public comment, and there was no comment on this item. The motion was approved by the three Executive Committee members present.

**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 thanked the OCEIA team who supported the San Francisco Pathways to Citizenship Initiative workshop on March 25, 2023, which served over 100 people. DreamSF fellowship applications are due April 1, 2023, and host site applications are due April 28, 2023. Commissioners are encouraged to share with their networks. OCEIA is

also accepting proposals from San Francisco non-profit and community-based organizations in the areas of language access, naturalization services and civic participation, and immigration fee assistance.

b. Follow-up Actions on Language Access Presentation

This item allows the OCEIA Director to provide updates as a follow-up to the presentations on language access at the February 13, 2023 Full Commission meeting. During the March 20, 2023 Full Commission meeting, Commissioners discussed inviting representatives from Supervisor Walton's office to discuss potential amendments at an upcoming Full Commission meeting, possibly April 10, 2023.

Director Rivas will reach out to Supervisor Walton's Office regarding potential amendments to the Language Access Ordinance.

c. Statement of Economic Interests (Form 700) Reminder

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 complete their Statement of Economic Interests (Form 700).

**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 new or old business.

**8. Adjournment**

Chair Kennelly thanked Commissioners and OCEIA staff and adjourned the meeting at 7:37 p.m.

