



CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO

IMMIGRANT RIGHTS COMMISSION

San Francisco Immigrant Rights Commission
Full Commission Meeting
San Francisco City Hall, 1 Carlton B. Goodlett Place, Room 408
March 20, 2023 at 5:30 pm PDT

Online: <https://sfpublish.webex.com/sfpublish/j.php?MTID=mfe682163bfec5a75fac31601d011d090>

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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, Commissioners Chaudhary, Latt, Obregon, Ruiz, Senghor, Souza.

Not present: Commissioners Enssani (excused), Gaime (excused), Rahimi (excused), Ricarte (excused), Wang (excused).

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 February 13, 2023 Full Commission Meeting Minutes
Discussion and possible action to approve the minutes of the Immigrant Rights Commission's February 13, 2023 Full Commission meeting. Explanatory document: [IRC Full Commission Minutes - February 13, 2023](#)

Commissioner Souza motioned to approve the February 13, 2023 Full Commission meeting minutes, seconded by Commissioner Chaudhary. Chair Kennelly called for public comment and there was no public comment on this item. The minutes were approved unanimously.

5. Discussion/Action Item: Language Access Ordinance Quarterly Complaint Report (Policy and Civic Engagement Officer Noonan)

(Information/Discussion/Action)

Information, discussion and possible action to adopt the quarterly Language Access Ordinance complaint report. This item allows Policy and Civic Engagement Officer Noonan to provide the Commission with an overview of the complaints OCEIA has received and investigated from members of the public regarding the City's language services. Explanatory Document: [LAO Quarterly Report – March 20, 2023](#)

Policy and Civic Engagement Officer Noonan provided an overview of the quarterly Language Access Ordinance report. OCEIA received one complaint during the reporting period. In response to a question from Commissioner Souza, she discussed next steps for enforcement of the Language Access Ordinance and best practices for City departments.

Commissioner Obregon motioned to adopt the report, seconded by Vice Chair Paz. Chair Kennelly called for public comment and there was no public comment on this item. The report was adopted unanimously.

6. Information/Discussion/Action Item: Proposed Rule on Asylum

(Information/Discussion/Action)

This item allows OCEIA staff and Commissioners to discuss federal policy updates including the Biden administration's proposed rule making changes to the asylum system, and take possible action. Written comments on the proposal are due March 27, 2023. Explanatory document: ["Circumvention of Lawful Pathways"](#)

Chair Kennelly invited Clerk Shore to provide information on the Biden administration's proposed rule making changes to the asylum system. Commission Clerk Shore provided an overview, and Chair Kennelly invited Commissioners to discuss possible actions. Vice Chair Paz suggested that the Commission submit a public comment opposing the proposed rule. Commissioner Ruiz and Chair Kennelly agreed. Commissioner Chaudhary volunteered to draft the comment. Director Rivas stated that if the Commission submits the final language, OCEIA

staff can submit to the Mayor's Office. Chair Kennelly and Vice Chair Paz will work with Commissioner Chaudhary to finalize the comment.

Chair Kennelly motioned for the Commission to write a public comment opposing the proposed asylum rule, seconded by Commissioner Chaudhary. Chair Kennelly called for public comment and there was no public comment on this item. The motion was approved unanimously by the eight Commissioners present: Chair Kennelly, Vice Chair Paz, Commissioners Chaudhary, Latt, Obregon, Ruiz, Senghor, and Souza.

Clerk Shore noted that the Mayor's Office previously asked the Commission to submit a resolution requesting the City to make public comment. Director Rivas said he will submit the language the Commission drafts to the Mayor's Office.

7. Chair and Vice Chair Reports
(Information/Discussion)

- a. Update on City Advocacy Related to Proposed Immigration Fee Changes
This item allows the Chair to provide an update on the resolution drafted by Commissioner Rahimi and Clerk Shore and issued by the Immigrant Rights Commission, and the public comment submitted by OCEIA and the IRC on behalf of the City and County of San Francisco regarding USCIS's proposed immigration fee changes.

The Commission submitted a resolution to the Mayor's Office written by Commissioner Rahimi and Clerk Shore, and the Mayor's Office authorized OCEIA and the Commission to submit public comment on behalf of the City and County of San Francisco. OCEIA staff submitted the public comment on March 13, 2023.

- b. Update on Advocacy Related to Immigrant Workers at Risk of Losing Visas
This item allows Chair Kennelly to thank Commissioner Chaudhary for drafting a statement on immigrant workers at risk of losing visas, which will be discussed and voted on at the next Executive Committee meeting.

Commissioner Chaudhary submitted a draft statement to OCEIA staff, and the item will be added to the next Executive Committee meeting agenda.

- c. San Francisco's Sanctuary City Status
This item allows the Chair to provide an update on the Board of Supervisors' vote related to San Francisco's sanctuary status, and the IRC statement she is drafting with Vice Chair Paz as a follow-up to the discussion at the Executive Committee's February

22, 2023 meeting.

Chair Kennelly and Vice Chair Paz will draft a statement re-affirming the Commission's support for the City's sanctuary city policy.

d. IRC Strategic Planning Retreat and Officer Elections

This item allows the Chair to discuss the IRC Strategic Planning Retreat and Officer Elections scheduled for April 10, 2023 at 3:00 p.m., invite Commissioners to complete the pre-retreat survey, confirm Commissioners' participation, and make any scheduling changes as needed.

Director Rivas noted that the venue has changed for the IRC Strategic Planning Retreat and Officer Elections. The meeting will be held at 1155 Market Street, 4th Floor Conference Room. Chair Kennelly and Clerk Shore asked Commissioners to confirm their attendance. Chair Kennelly, Vice Chair Paz and Commissioners Ruiz, Senghor, and Souza confirmed their attendance; Commissioners Chaudhary and Latt will check on their availability. Commissioner Chaudhary asked about remote attendance, and Director Rivas stated that Commissioners who would like to request an exception can contact him or Clerk Shore for the documentation to make the request.

e. Hearing on LGBTQ Immigrants

This item allows the Chair and Commissioner Latt to provide updates on the Commission's special hearing on LGBTQ immigrants scheduled for May 8, 2023 at the LGBT Center.

Commissioner Latt is working with OCEIA staff to plan the hearing on LGBTQ immigrants scheduled for May 8, 2023 at the LGBT Center. Elected officials have not yet been confirmed. Vice Chair Paz suggested that the hearing include potential changes to the asylum system that will impact the LGBTQ community. Chair Kennelly asked Commissioners to invite community members to the hearing.

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

8. Awards Committee Reports

(Information/Discussion)

a. Immigrant Leadership Awards Committee Updates

This item allows Chair Kennelly, Awards Committee Co-Chairs Ricarte and Obregon, and

OCEIA staff to provide updates from the Awards Committee meeting, discuss the Committee's upcoming meeting, invite Commissioners to nominate potential awardees and potential performers for the event and share the nomination form with their networks, and discuss the June 12, 2023 Immigrant Leadership Awards.

Awards Committee Co-Chair Obregon provided an update on the Immigrant Leadership Awards. The deadline to submit nominations is April 12, 2023. Every Commissioner is encouraged to submit at least one nomination. This is the first year the nomination form is open to the public. Nominees may be in any industry or field. The next Awards Committee meeting is scheduled for April 19, 2023.

Director Rivas stated that the Immigrant Leadership Awards will take place June 12, 2023 at the North Light Court in City Hall. Commissioners who are interested in helping fundraise through food, goods, performers, or financial support can connect with the Awards Committee co-chairs and Director Rivas.

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.

Director Rivas invited Deputy Director Whipple to provide updates. The San Francisco Pathways to Citizenship Initiative workshop is scheduled for March 25, 2023 at the Southeast Community Center in the Bayview. Commissioners are invited to share with their networks. The DreamSF Fellows program is accepting applications from fellows and host sites. The deadline to apply for a fellowship is April 1, 2023. OCEIA is continuing its ongoing conversations with City departments and community partners around planning for an increase in asylum seekers.

b. 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 submit their Statement of Economic Interests (Form 700) through NetFile by April 1, 2023.

c. Language Access Updates

This item allows the Director to provide updates on the discussions on amendments to the Language Access Ordinance as a follow-up to the language access presentations at the February 13, 2023 Full Commission meeting.

Director Rivas provided an update on the discussions on amendments to the Language Access Ordinance (LAO). Supervisor Walton's Office plans to submit amendments to the LAO this fiscal year. Chair Kennelly asked Director Rivas to invite Supervisor Walton's Office to present proposed amendments to the Commission at its April 10, 2023 strategic planning retreat. If the office is not ready to present at that time, the Commission can invite them to its May 8, 2023 hearing.

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.

Commissioner Souza said she would be introducing a resolution urging Congressional action on humane immigration reform, and a resolution in support of California bill SB-686 (Durazo) regarding occupations safety for domestic workers. Chair Kennelly reiterated the Commission's longstanding support for federal immigration reform and domestic workers' rights, and Commissioner Obregon voiced her support for domestic workers.

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

11. Adjournment

Chair Kennelly thanked Commissioners, OCEIA staff, and interpreters, and adjourned the meeting at 6:23 p.m.

