



CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO

IMMIGRANT RIGHTS COMMISSION

San Francisco Immigrant Rights Commission
Executive Committee Meeting
1155 Market Street, 4th Floor Conference Room
September 20, 2023 at 5:30 pm PDT

Online: <https://sfpublic.webex.com/sfpublic/j.php?MTID=m62b5f018525f4ce455e663dbbb84eac6>

Phone: 1-415-655-0001 / Access code: 2660 003 5056 / Webinar password: 2023

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

Chair Kennelly called the meeting to order at 5:54 p.m.

Present: Chair Kennelly, Vice Chair Chaudhary, Commissioner Souza.

Not present: Commissioners Paz (excused), Ricarte (excused).

OCEIA staff present: Director Rivas, Operations and Grants 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. Recognizing Former Vice Chair Paz and Welcoming New Vice Chair Chaudhary

This item allows the Commission Chair to recognize former Vice Chair Mario Paz, and to welcome newly elected Vice Chair Kudrat Chaudhary.

Chair Kennelly recognized the work of former Vice Chair Mario Paz, and welcomed newly elected Vice Chair Chaudhary. Vice Chair Chaudhary made brief remarks.

5. Action Item: Approval of previous minutes

(Discussion/Action)

- a. Approval of August 23, 2023 Executive Committee Meeting Minutes
Discussion and possible action to approve the [minutes](#) of the Immigrant Rights Commission's Executive Committee meeting of August 23, 2023.

Commissioner Souza motioned to approve the minutes, seconded by Vice Chair Chaudhary. Chair Kennelly called for public comment and there was no public comment on this item. The minutes were approved unanimously by the three Commissioners present.

6. Discussion/Action Items

(Discussion/Action)

- a. Proposed Amendments to Language Access Ordinance
This item allows the Executive Committee to discuss and take possible action on proposed amendments to the Language Access Ordinance, as a follow-up to the September 11, 2023 Full Commission hearing.

Director Rivas provided an update on the timeline of the proposed amendments. The amendments will go before the Rules Committee and the Commission can provide formal comments at that time. In response to a question from Commissioner Souza, Director Rivas discussed proposed changes to enforcement and reporting requirements.

- b. Planning for Special Hearing on Workforce Development
This item allows the Executive Committee to discuss scheduling and planning for a hearing on workforce development. This is a follow-up action from the May 17, 2023 IRC Strategic Planning Retreat to address the two priority areas identified by the Commission: support for DACA recipients and asylum seekers.

Director Rivas provided an update on the special hearing on workforce development planned for October 30, 2023, and Commissioners discussed outreach for the hearing.

- c. Follow-Up Actions from Special Hearing on LGBTQ Immigrants
This item allows OCEIA staff to provide an update on the recommendations approved at the September 11, 2023 Full Commission meeting.

The recommendations from the special hearing on LGBTQIA+ immigrants were adopted and sent to the Mayor's Office, Board of Supervisors, and various City departments. The Office of Supervisor Engardio has requested a meeting. Chair Kennelly congratulated Commissioner Latt on his work.

- d. Proposed Resolution on Immigration Reform
This item allows OCEIA staff to provide an update on the resolution approved at the September 11, 2023 Full Commission meeting.

The resolution was adopted and sent to Senators Feinstein and Padilla and Speaker Emerita Pelosi's offices. Sen. Feinstein confirmed that she has signed onto the bill.

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

This item allows Commissioner Souza to update the Executive Committee on her latest draft of the report on the IRC's hearing on housing. During the April 26, 2023 Executive Committee meeting, Director Rivas asked Commissioner Souza to restructure the report so that it begins with the introduction and recommendations, followed by the minutes from the hearing as an addendum.

Commissioner Souza discussed her latest draft, which she sent today. Chair Kennelly noted that Commissioners have not had time to review it and suggested that the item be added to the next Executive Committee meeting agenda. Commissioner Souza will work with OCEIA staff to update the report.

f. Proposed Statement on Sanctuary City and/or Honduran Immigrants (Chair Kennelly and Vice Chair Paz)

This item allows Chair Kennelly and Vice Chair Paz to provide an update on a proposed statement on San Francisco's sanctuary city status and/or messaging related to the Honduran immigrant community in San Francisco, and allows the Executive Committee to discuss and take possible action.

Chair Kennelly will try to connect with Commissioner Paz this week and will check in with Director Rivas.

7. Chair Reports
(Information)

a. Scheduling of Upcoming Meetings

This item allows the Chair to provide updates on rescheduling and/or cancellation of upcoming meetings. The meeting originally scheduled for October 9, has been rescheduled to October 30, 2023.

Director Rivas noted that the November Full Commission meeting is scheduled to take place during the week of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) events at City Hall. Commissioners discussed keeping the October 25 Executive Committee meeting and the November 13 and December 11 Full Commission meetings. The October Full Commission meeting has been rescheduled to October 30, 2023.

8. 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 San Francisco Pathways to Citizenship Initiative's 10th anniversary celebration will take place October 23, 2023. All Commissioners are invited. Commissioners have also received access to ethics trainings.

b. Reappointment Hearings for Board-Appointed Commissioners

Six Board-appointed Commissioners are up for reappointment by the Board of Supervisors as of June 6, 2023. Commissioners are encouraged to reapply as soon as possible.

Director Rivas provided an update on the reappointment hearings for Commissioners. Commissioners have reapplied for their seats and the hearing date has not yet been scheduled.

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.

Vice Chair Chaudhary asked about actions the Commission can take to address national delays in asylum interviews. She noted that some individuals have been waiting since 2015. She suggested inviting the San Francisco asylum office and community members to a hearing to understand the impact of the delays. Director Rivas noted that as a federal agency, the asylum office does not fall under the Commission's purview, which is to advise the Mayor's Office and Board of Supervisors. Director Rivas suggested that the Commission write a letter asking for more information or urging the office to move interviews forward. Chair Kennelly asked that the item be added to the agenda for the next Executive Committee meeting.

Commissioner Souza suggested that the Commission issue a short statement on the DACA decision. Director Rivas suggested that the item be added to the agenda for the next Executive Committee meeting.

10. Adjournment

Chair Kennelly adjourned the meeting at 6:52 p.m.