



CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO

IMMIGRANT RIGHTS COMMISSION

San Francisco Immigrant Rights Commission Meeting
San Francisco City Hall, 1 Carlton B. Goodlett Place, Room 416
September 11, 2023 at 5:30 pm PDT

Online: <https://sfpublish.webex.com/sfpublish/j.php?MTID=m0fa58dea16afef3d4d16e36b372091d2>

Phone: 415-655-0001 / Access code: 2664 184 6050 / Password: 2023

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 5:44 p.m.

Present: Chair Kennelly, Vice Chair Paz, Commissioners Abdou, Chaudhary, Enssani (arrived at 5:52 p.m.), Gaime (left early), Latt, Qiu, Ricarte, Senghor, Souza, Wang.

Not present: Commissioners Obregon (excused), Rahimi (excused), Ruiz (excused).

OCEIA staff present: Director Rivas, Clerk Shore, Operations and Grants Administrator Chan, Policy and Civic Engagement Officer Noonan, Language Access Unit Supervisor Ruiz, 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 July 10, 2023 Full Commission Meeting Minutes

Discussion and possible action to approve the minutes of the Immigrant Rights Commission's Full Commission meeting of July 10, 2023. Explanatory Document: [Full Commission Meeting Minutes – July 10, 2023](#)

Commissioner Souza motioned to approve the minutes of the Immigrant Rights Commission's Full Commission meeting of July 10, 2023, seconded by Commissioner Chaudhary. Chair Kennelly called for public comment and there was no public comment on this item. The minutes were approved, with 10 Commissioners voting in favor of the motion, and one Commissioner (Commissioner Ricarte) opposed. Commissioner Enssani joined the meeting after the vote at 5:52 p.m.

5. Discussion/Action Item: Language Access Ordinance Quarterly Complaint Report

(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 Complaint Report – September 11, 2023](#)

Policy and Civic Engagement Officer Noonan presented an overview of the Language Access Ordinance complaints and OCEIA's work to investigate and resolve them, and answered questions from Commissioners Wang, Souza, Abdou, Ricarte, and Qiu. There were two language access complaints during this time period related to Chinese translation and interpretation for the Planning Department and the Housing Authority.

Chair Kennelly motioned to adopt the quarterly report, seconded by Commissioner Qiu. Chair

Kennelly called for public comment and there was no public comment on this item. The quarterly complaint report was adopted by all 12 Commissioners present.

6. Discussion/Action Item: Proposed Amendments to San Francisco's Language Access Ordinance
(Information/Discussion/Action)

- a. Overview of the Language Access Ordinance (Chloe Noonan, OCEIA)
(Information/Discussion)

This item allows OCEIA Policy and Civic Engagement Officer Noonan to present an overview of San Francisco's [Language Access Ordinance](#), its history, background, and current requirements, and to provide context for the proposed amendments.

Policy and Civic Engagement Officer Noonan provided an overview of the current requirements of San Francisco's Language Access Ordinance.

- b. Overview of Proposed Amendments to the Language Access Ordinance (Lindsey Lopez-Weaver, Office of Supervisor Walton)
(Information/Discussion/Action)

This item allows the Office of Supervisor Shamann Walton to present an overview of the [proposed amendments](#) to San Francisco's Language Access Ordinance, and allows Commissioners to ask questions, discuss the proposed amendments, and take possible action.

Lindsey Lopez-Weaver, legislative aide for the Office of Supervisor Walton, provided an overview of the proposed amendments to the Language Access Ordinance.

Chair Kennelly thanked the presenters and invited Commissioners to ask questions. In response to a question from Chair Kennelly about the timeline, Legislative Aide Lopez-Weaver said her office is currently considering some additional proposed amendments. Vice Chair Paz discussed the importance of implementing a uniform standard for language services, and noted that OCEIA's oversight role will require additional resources. Chair Kennelly commended the amendments for focusing on emergency services and digital information. In response to a question from Commissioner Chaudhary about checks and balances, Policy and Civic Engagement Officer Noonan discussed the annual compliance report, complaint process, and spot check program. Commissioner Abdou suggested training new City staff on the Language Access Ordinance, and Commissioner Ricarte discussed signage requirements, which would be strengthened under the proposed amendments.

7. Discussion/Action Item: Proposed Resolution on Immigration Reform and Registry Bill

(Information/Discussion/Action)

Information, discussion and possible action to issue the proposed resolution in support of immigration reform and Renewing Immigration Provisions of the Immigration Act of 1929 (H.R. 1511 and S. 2606), also known as the Registry Bill. On August 23, 2023, the Executive Committee voted to issue the resolution and bring it to the Full Commission for a vote. This item allows Commissioner Souza to present the proposed resolution and allows the Commission to discuss and take possible action to issue it.

Commissioner Souza discussed the proposed resolution and answered Commissioners' questions about the Registry Bill. Chair Kennelly motioned to issue the resolution, seconded by Vice Chair Paz. Chair Kennelly called for public comment and there was no public comment on this item. The motion was approved by the 11 Commissioners present: Chair Kennelly, Vice Chair Paz, Commissioners Abdou, Chaudhary, Enssani, Latt, Qiu, Ricarte, Senghor, Souza, and Wang. (Commissioner Gaime left before the vote took place.) In response to a question from Vice Chair Paz, Director Rivas and Clerk Shore noted that OCEIA staff are tracking this and other immigration bills and can share them with the Commission.

8. Discussion/Action Item: Proposed Commission Recommendations from Special Hearing on LGBTQIA+ Immigrants

(Information/Discussion/Action)

Information, discussion and possible action to adopt the Commission's recommendations on LGBTQIA+ immigrants as a follow-up to the Commission's May 8, 2023 special hearing. This item allows Commissioner Latt to present the Commission's draft recommendations from its special hearing on LGBTQIA+ immigrants, and allows the Commission to discuss and take possible action to adopt and issue them to the appropriate City departments. On August 23, 2023, the Executive Committee voted to adopt the recommendations and bring them to the Full Commission for a vote.

Commissioner Latt thanked OCEIA staff and provided an overview of the Commission's recommendations from its May 8, 2023 hearing on LGBTQIA+ immigrants. The recommendations can be forwarded to the City departments as listed, along with a request to provide an overview of the services they are currently providing to LGBTQIA+ immigrants, and an invitation to potentially present to the Commission at a later date. Chair Kennelly motioned to adopt the recommendations, seconded by Commissioner Chaudhary. Chair Kennelly called for public comment and there was no public comment on this item. The motion was approved by the 11 Commissioners present: Chair Kennelly, Vice Chair Paz, Commissioners Abdou, Chaudhary, Enssani, Latt, Qiu, Ricarte, Senghor, Souza, and Wang. Chair Kennelly thanked OCEIA

staff for sending the recommendations to the listed City departments and said she looked forward to their responses and possible follow-up conversations.

9. Chair's Reports

(Information)

a. Chair's Updates

This item allows the Chair to provide an overview of the Commission's recent and ongoing work.

Chair Kennelly thanked Commissioners Souza and Latt for bringing items before the Commission during today's meeting, and encouraged all Commissioners to bring items in the future.

b. Upcoming IRC Meeting Schedule

This item allows the Chair to provide an overview of the Commission's meeting schedule over the next several months, including rescheduling the October meeting due to the holiday.

The Commission's next meeting, a special hearing on workforce development, has been rescheduled from October 9, 2023 to October 30, 2023. This is a follow-up from the retreat, when the Commission identified support for Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) recipients and asylum seekers as its priority areas for the year.

10. Staff Reports

(Information)

a. Director's Updates

Report on OCEIA and IRC activities and announcements. This item allows the Commission Secretary/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 provided an update on the recent San Francisco Pathways to Citizenship Initiative workshop and the upcoming 10th anniversary celebration of the program on October 23, 2023. All Commissioners are invited to attend.

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.

11. Action Item: Annual Officer Elections (Director Rivas)

(Action)

Director Rivas provided an overview of the duties of the Commission chair and vice chair. Chair Kennelly called for public comment and there was no public comment on this item.

a. Election of Commission Chair

OCEIA staff received two nominations for Commission chair: Celine Kennelly and Sarah Souza. Director Rivas asked Commissioners if they would like to make any other nominations from the floor, and no other nominations were made. Director Rivas asked the nominees if they accepted their nominations, and the nominees accepted. In the Commission's roll-call vote, Celine Kennelly received eight votes and Sarah Souza received three votes; Chair Kennelly was elected as Commission chair. Chair Kennelly thanked Commissioner Souza and all Commissioners for their work on behalf of immigrant communities.

b. Election of Commission Vice Chair

OCEIA staff received one nomination for Commission vice chair: Kudrat Chaudhary. Director Rivas asked Commissioners if they would like to make any other nominations from the floor, and no other nominations were made. Director Rivas asked the nominee if she accepted her nomination, and the nominee accepted. In the Commission's roll-call vote, Commissioner Chaudhary received 11 votes and was elected vice chair.

Incoming Vice Chair Chaudhary spoke briefly. Chair Kennelly recognized outgoing Vice Chair Paz, who thanked the Commission.

12. New Business

(Information)

This item is to allow Commissioners to introduce new agenda items for future consideration by the Commission.

Commissioner Essani spoke about a relative she lost who was on the first plane in the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001. Chair Kennelly called for a moment of silence for her and for all victims of 9/11.

Commissioner Souza asked about the status of the proposed statement in support of San Francisco as a sanctuary city, and Director Rivas stated that the statement has not been finalized. Commissioner Souza encouraged the Commission to move forward with the statement. Chair Kennelly provided an update on her work with Vice Chair Paz.

Commissioner Ricarte thanked Director Rivas, OCEIA staff, Awards Co-Chair Obregon, and Awards Committee members Commissioners Chaudhary and Senghor for their help organizing a successful Immigrant Leadership Awards event in June. He also thanked Commissioner Senghor for his food donation. Chair Kennelly thanked Commissioner Ricarte for his leadership as Co-Chair of the Awards Committee.

Chair Kennelly read a letter from Commissioner Rahimi announcing his resignation from the Commission.

13. Adjournment

Chair Kennelly adjourned the meeting at 7:30 p.m.