



CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO IMMIGRANT RIGHTS COMMISSION

San Francisco Immigrant Rights Commission
Executive Committee Meeting
1155 Market Street, 4th Floor Conference Room
October 25, 2023 at 5:30 pm PDT

Online: <https://sfpublic.webex.com/sfpublic/j.php?MTID=m3bc0554cb449d48e0a64de3f97d7cf19>

Phone: 1-415-655-0001 / Access code: 2664 712 2411 / Webinar password: 2023

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

Chair Kennelly called the meeting to order at 5:50 p.m.

Present: Chair Kennelly, Vice Chair Chaudhary, Commissioners Paz (left at 6:16 p.m.), Souza.

Not present: Commissioner Ricarte (excused).

OCEIA Staff present: Director Rivas, Clerk Shore, 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. Action Item: Approval of previous minutes

(Discussion/Action)

- a. Approval of September 20, 2023 Executive Committee Meeting Minutes
Discussion and possible action to approve the minutes of the Immigrant Rights Commission's Executive Committee meeting of September 20, 2023.

[IRC Executive Committee Meeting Minutes – September 20, 2023](#)

Vice Chair Chaudhary motioned to approve the September 20, 2023 Executive

Committee meeting minutes, seconded by Commissioner Souza. Chair Kennelly called for public comment and there was no comment on this item. The motion was approved unanimously.

5. **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.

There were no updates to this agenda item.

b. Planning for Special Hearing on Workforce Development

This item allows the Executive Committee to discuss planning and outreach for the October 30, 2023 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 planning for the October 30, 2023 special hearing on workforce development and encouraged Commissioners to invite community members.

c. LGBT Asylum Project Event

This item allows OCEIA staff to provide information, and the Executive Committee to discuss and take possible action, on a request from the LGBT Asylum Project to seek the Commission's support with or participation in an upcoming event related to transgender immigrants.

Director Rivas provided an update on the upcoming Transgender Immigrants Day scheduled for November 18, 2023, with the Mayoral proclamation to be presented the day before.

d. 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 is working with Director Rivas on the document.

- e. 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.

Commissioner Paz discussed community members' concern about negative media coverage of Honduran immigrants, and the possible repercussions of issuing a statement. He said he hopes that in the future, the Chair and Vice Chair can meet with the Mayor and Police Chief as advisors.

- f. Proposed Statement on DACA Decision

This item allows the Executive Committee to discuss, and take possible action on, issuing a statement on Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA). On September 13, 2023, the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Texas found the DACA final rule to be unlawful. The case is expected to reach the U.S. Supreme Court.

Commissioner Souza proposed issuing a statement reaffirming the Commission's commitment to DACA recipients. Commissioner Paz suggested issuing a general statement reaffirming the Commission's support for DACA and San Francisco's sanctuary city status. He noted there likely will be an increase in xenophobic rhetoric in the lead-up to the presidential election. Chair Kennelly suggested that the statement also include a reference to the Commission's hearing on workforce development. The action item will be added to the agenda for the Full Commission's October 30, 2023 hearing.

- g. Proposed Letter or Other Action Addressing Delays in Asylum Interviews

This item allows the Executive Committee to discuss, and take possible action on, issuing a letter or taking another action to address the delays in asylum interviewing and processing.

Vice Chair Chaudhary discussed actions the Commission can take to address the delay in asylum interviews, including asking Speaker Emerita Pelosi's office to send a letter to USCIS, and releasing a statement acknowledging the delay and what people can do

about it. Director Rivas suggested submitting a letter of inquiry to USCIS. Commissioner Chaudhary will draft the letter. This item will not be included in the Full Commission's October 30, 2023 meeting agenda.

6. 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.

Chair Kennelly canceled the November 13, 2023 Full Commission meeting and noted that the Executive Committee meeting has been rescheduled to November 29, 2023.

7. 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 provided an overview of the Board of Supervisors' new policy on remote public comment, and the guidance from the Mayor's Office that the policy be applied to all Commissions. Director Rivas thanked Commission Clerk Shore for providing Commissioners with a legislative policy update. He thanked OCEIA staff and Commissioners who attended the San Francisco Pathways to Citizenship Initiative's 10th anniversary event on October 23, 2023. The San Francisco Pathways to Citizenship held a Lawyers in the Library naturalization clinic, and DreamSF held an immigration screening clinic. Today, Chair Kennelly, Commissioner Latt and OCEIA staff met with Supervisor Engardio's Office to discuss the recommendations the Commission developed from its special hearing on LGBTQIA+ immigrants.

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.

The hearing has not yet been scheduled.

8. 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.

9. Adjournment

Chair Kennelly adjourned the meeting at 6:27 p.m.