



# 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  
January 22, 2024 at 5:30 pm PST**

**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 attending 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.

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

Chair Kennelly called the meeting to order at 5:39 p.m.

Present: Chair Kennelly, Vice Chair Chaudhary, Commissioners Paz, Ricarte, Souza.

OCEIA Staff Present: Director Rivas, Clerk Shore.

**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)*

Discussion and possible action to approve the minutes of the Immigrant Rights Commission's Executive Committee meeting of October 25, 2023.

[IRC Executive Committee Meeting Minutes 10.25.23](#)

Vice Chair Chaudhary motioned to approve the minutes of October 25, 2023, seconded by Commissioner Souza. The minutes were approved with four Commissioner voting in favor, and one Commissioner (Commissioner Ricarte) opposed.

## 5. **Discussion/Action Items**

*(Discussion/Action)*

### a. Follow-Up from IRC Special Hearing on Workforce Development

This item allows the Director to present the community recommendations drafted by OCEIA from the October 30, 2023 special hearing called by Commissioner Souza, invite the Executive Committee to review, edit and add to the recommendations, and take possible action.

Director Rivas thanked Clerk Shore for drafting the recommendations, and invited Commissioners to remove, add to, or modify them. Commissioner Souza met with OCEIA staff to review the recommendations and asked Commissioners to provide their input. Vice Chair Chaudhary suggested removing the specific examples of employment-sponsored pathways. Commissioner Paz suggested listing resources where employers can find more information and Commissioner Ricarte suggested including the list at the end of the document. Chair Kennelly suggested that the list include the websites of the organizations that presented at the hearing, and any other resources would like to include. Director Rivas asked Commissioners to send OCEIA other resources they would like included, and to prioritize the list of recommendations, by the next Executive Committee meeting.

### b. Proposed Statement on DACA and Sanctuary City

This item allows the Executive Committee to discuss, and take possible action on, issuing a statement affirming the Commission's support for Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) and San Francisco's sanctuary status. On September 13, 2023, the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Texas found the DACA final rule to be unlawful, and the case is expected to reach the U.S. Supreme Court. During the October 25, 2023 IRC Executive Committee meeting, Chair Kennelly suggested that the statement include a reference to the Commission's hearing on workforce development. On October 30, 2023, the Full Commission voted to empower the Commission Chair to issue a statement.

Chair Kennelly will consider how the workforce recommendations may affect the

statement.

c. Proposed Letter Addressing Delays in Asylum Interviews

This item allows the Executive Committee to discuss, and take possible action on, issuing a letter of inquiry to USCIS to address the delays in asylum interviewing and processing. Vice Chair Chaudhary has drafted a letter of inquiry to USCIS.

Chair Kennelly thanked Vice Chair Chaudhary for drafting the letter. Director Rivas will schedule a meeting with the USCIS director, OCEIA staff, and the Commission Chair and Vice Chair. Rather than sending a letter now, he suggested meeting in person first to raise these concerns, and then sending a follow-up letter if needed.

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 provided an update on items 5.d and 5.e., included under item 5.e. below.

e. Proposed Resolution on Affordable Housing

This item allows Commissioner Souza to propose a resolution on affordable housing. This item was introduced during New Business at the Full Commission's January 8, 2024 meeting.

Commissioner Souza will submit a draft resolution by Friday and requested that Commissioners provide their input at the next Executive Committee meeting. If the resolution is approved and the recommendations are finalized, she asked that they be sent jointly in an email. Director Rivas suggested that the Executive Committee continue to consider 5.d. and 5.e. as two separate items, and if they align, they can be issued as a package.

f. Proposed Resolution in Support of a Cease-Fire

This item allows Commissioner Obregon to propose a resolution in support of a cease-fire. This item was introduced during New Business at the Full Commission's January 8, 2024 meeting. On January 8, 2024 the Full Commission voted to issue a [statement](#) in

support of calling for a cease-fire for humanitarian reasons. On January 9, 2024, the Board of Supervisors voted to issue [Resolution 231263](#) (Preston), as amended, calling for a sustained ceasefire in Gaza, humanitarian aid, release of hostages, and condemning antisemitic, anti-Palestinian, and Islamophobic rhetoric and attacks.

Chair Kennelly noted that during the last Full Commission meeting, Commissioner Obregon said that if the Board of Supervisors passes its resolution, there would not be a need for the Commission to issue its own resolution, and Vice Chair Chaudhary agreed.

g. Proposed Letter on Budget Priorities

This item allows Commissioner Obregon to propose a letter regarding the City's budget priorities. This item was introduced during New Business at the Full Commission's January 8, 2024 meeting.

Chair Kennelly noted that Commissioner Obregon is not present at this meeting, and asked if there was an update on this item. Commissioner Paz stated that given the current budget cuts, there is interest in having the Commission call for the prioritization of services supporting low-income, vulnerable immigrant populations. Director Rivas suggested the Commission focus on needs and services, rather than specific City departments or programs. Commissioner Souza suggested including issues the Commission has conducted hearings on. Director Rivas suggested that the Commission could discuss its priorities at the strategic planning retreat and issue the letter as a follow-up action.

h. IRC Awards Committee

This item allows the Chair to appoint co-chairs and members to the IRC Awards Committee. This item was discussed during the January 8, 2024 Full Commission meeting.

Chair Kennelly appointed Commissioners Ricarte and Obregon as co-chairs of the Awards Committee, pending Commissioner Obregon's confirmation, and appointed Commissioners Chaudhary and Paz as members of the Awards Committee. Commissioner Ricarte noted that Commissioner Senghor may also be interested in joining.

i. IRC Strategic Planning Retreat

This item allows the Chair and Director Rivas to schedule and discuss plans for the IRC Strategic Planning Retreat.

Chair Kennelly said the strategic planning retreat will likely take place on March 11 at 5:00 p.m. She will confirm the date with OCEIA staff. Director Rivas suggested tabling elections since they were held late last year. Clerk Shore will send Commissioners the pre-retreat survey.

j. IRC Annual Report

This item allows the Director to present the IRC Annual Report drafted by OCEIA on the Commission's work during 2023, and invite the Executive Committee to review, edit and approve the report's recommendations.

Chair Kennelly thanked Clerk Shore for drafting the annual report, and asked Commissioners to review the recommendations and provide their feedback. Chair Kennelly thanked staff for including recommendations from the LGBTQIA+ and workforce hearings, and suggested adding a recommendation on housing. Commissioner Souza suggested removing names of elected officials in light of the upcoming elections, and Commissioners said that the names of sponsors of special hearings should be included. Director Rivas asked Commissioners to review the recommendations and provide their feedback by January 29.

**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 provided an overview of upcoming activities, including the San Francisco Pathways to Citizenship Initiative workshop, the launch of the DreamSF Fellowship application, and the publication of the 2024 Language Access Compliance Summary Report, which will be discussed at the next Full Commission meeting. The Language Access Compliance Summary Report is sent to the Immigrant Rights Commission on February 1 of each year.

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.

Director Rivas is working on scheduling the reappointment hearings.

c. **Statements of Economic Interests (Form 700)**

Commissioners are required to complete their annual Statements of Economic Interest (Form 700) by April 2, 2024.

Director Rivas reminded Commissioners to complete their Statement of Economic Interests (Form 700) on NetFile.

**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.

Commissioner Paz suggested issuing a statement recognizing the importance of the new California law expanding Medi-Cal to residents regardless of immigration status. He will draft a statement and send it to OCEIA staff.

Commissioner Souza asked if OCEIA had videos highlighting immigrants as a way to counter anti-immigrant narratives, and Director Rivas said he will check with OCEIA staff. Commissioner Paz discussed sharing stories of Immigrant Leadership Award recipients.

**8. Adjournment**

Chair Kennelly adjourned the meeting at 6:45 p.m.

