



# 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**  
**January 8, 2024 at 5:30 pm PST**

**Online:** <https://sfpublic.webex.com/sfpublic/j.php?MTID=m41953ecf9f094b89ef4d68c1a819cdf6>

**Phone:** 1-415-655-0001 / **Webinar number:** 2662 816 5089 / **Webinar password:** 2024

**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**

Vice Chair Chaudhary called the meeting to order at 5:43 p.m.

Present: Vice Chair Chaudhary, Commissioners Abdou (5:56 p.m.), Gaime, Obregon, Paz, Qiu, Ricarte, Ruiz (5:44 p.m.), Souza, Wang.

Not present: Chair Kennelly (excused), Commissioners Enssani (excused), Latt (excused), Senghor (excused).

OCEIA staff present: Director Rivas, Clerk Shore, Operations and Grants Administrator Chan, Spanish Language Specialist Cosenza, Policy and Civic Engagement Officer Noonan, Newcomer and Immigrant Services Specialist Sarabia, DreamSF Fellowship Coordinator Suarez Rojas, 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.

Vice Chair Chaudhary 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.

Director Rivas made announcements about how to access interpretation services and make public comment. Vice Chaudhary called for general public comment and was no public

comment.

**4. Action Item: Approval of previous minutes**

*(Discussion/Action)*

- a. Approval of October 30, 2023 Full Commission Meeting Minutes  
Discussion and possible action to approve the minutes of the Immigrant Rights Commission's Full Commission meeting of October 30, 2023.

[IRC Full Commission Meeting Minutes 10.30.23](#)

Commissioner Souza motioned to approve the October 30, 2023 meeting minutes, seconded by Commissioner Wang. Vice Chair Chaudhary called for public comment, and there was no public comment on this item. The motion was approved, with eight Commissioners voting in favor and one Commissioner (Commissioner Ricarte) opposed.

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

Information, discussion and possible action to adopt the quarterly Language Access Ordinance complaint report. This item allows Policy and Civic Engagement Officer Chloe 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.

[LAO Quarterly Complaint Report 1.8.24](#)

Policy and Civic Engagement Officer Noonan presented an overview of the Language Access Ordinance Quarterly Complaint Report and updates on OCEIA's compliance activities. OCEIA received one complaint during this quarter regarding a private medical facility. The San Francisco Language Access Ordinance only applies to public-facing City departments; it does not apply to private businesses or private non-profit organizations. Policy and Civic Engagement Officer Noonan suggested that it would be beneficial to do more education and outreach, to help ensure that members of the public know what the LAO requires, what entities it applies to, and how to exercise their language rights.

Commissioner Wang asked Director Rivas to provide clarification from the City Attorney regarding which obligations pertain to private or non-profit agencies that receive City funds. Director Rivas noted that the Language Access Ordinance applies only to City departments. Commissioner Obregon asked if community-based organizations and private businesses have access to City resources for translation services. Policy and Civic Engagement Officer Noonan

said that Citywide language services contracts are accessible only to City departments. Director Rivas noted that several years ago, OCEIA piloted the Community Language Bank to provide interpretation training to community members. Commissioner Abdou called for more resources for community-based organizations to hire interpreters.

Commissioner Qiu motioned to adopt the Language Access Ordinance Quarterly Complaint Report, seconded by Commissioner Paz. Vice Chair Chaudhary called for public comment, and there was no public comment on this item. The motion was approved by the 10 Commissioners present.

- 6. Discussion/Action Item: Statement in Support of Board of Supervisors Resolution 231263 Introduced by Supervisor Preston (Vice Chair Chaudhary, Commissioners Abdou and Obregon)**  
Discussion and possible action to issue a short statement in support of Resolution 231263 Calling for Sustained Ceasefire in Gaza, Humanitarian Aid, Release of Hostages, and Condemning Antisemitic, Anti-Palestinian, and Islamophobic Rhetoric and Attacks as introduced by Supervisor Preston.

[IRC Proposed Statement 1.8.24](#)

Commissioner Obregon read the proposed statement aloud and answered questions from Commissioners. Commissioner Abdou suggested changing “Arab” to “Muslim and Christian,” and Commissioners Wang and Ricarte suggested adding a reference to other religious groups. Commissioners Obregon and Ricarte suggested amending the language to highlight support for any resolution calling for a cease-fire. Commissioner Souza suggested adding “for humanitarian reasons” to the statement title. Commissioner Obregon voiced her support for the amendments, and read the amended version aloud. Commissioner Souza made a motion to issue the statement as amended, seconded by Commissioner Ricarte.

Vice Chair Chaudhary called for public comment.

Mingus expressed the need to pass a statement calling for a cease-fire in Gaza and Israel;  
Casey expressed the need to pass a statement calling for a cease-fire in Gaza and Israel;  
Luna expressed the need to pass a statement calling for a cease-fire in Gaza and Israel;  
Helena Awad expressed the need to pass a statement calling for a cease-fire in Gaza and Israel;  
Matt Oshinsky expressed the need to pass a statement calling for a cease-fire in Gaza and Israel;  
Jackie expressed the need to pass a statement calling for a cease-fire in Gaza and Israel;  
Richard Whipple expressed the need to pass a statement calling for a cease-fire in Gaza and Israel;

Valeria Suarez expressed the need to pass a statement calling for a cease-fire in Gaza and Israel; Hibah expressed the need to pass a statement calling for a cease-fire in Gaza and Israel; and Sarah Lee submitted a public comment by email expressing the need to pass a statement calling for a cease-fire in Gaza and Israel.

Vice Chair Chaudhary thanked members of the public, and Commissioners Wang and Obregon made remarks. Commissioner Souza called for a vote, and the amended statement was approved by the 10 Commissioners present.

## **7. Chair Reports**

*(Information)*

- a. Chair and Vice Chair's Updates and 2024 Preview (Chair Kennelly and Vice Chair Chaudhary)

This item allows the Chair and Vice Chair to provide brief updates on the work of the Commission and preview the year ahead.

Vice Chair Chaudhary provided updates on the IRC Strategic Planning Retreat, follow-up actions from the October hearing on workforce development, statement in support of DACA and San Francisco's sanctuary policy, and proposed letter to USCIS on asylum delays.

- b. Immigrant Leadership Awards Committee (Chair Kennelly, Commissioner Ricarte)  
Information on the 2024 Immigrant Leadership Awards, which honors the contributions of local immigrant leaders and champions of immigrant committees, and possible action by the Commission Chair to nominate the Awards Committee Co-Chairs, and invite Commissioners to join the Awards Committee.

Vice Chair Chaudhary invited Commissioners Ricarte and Obregon to discuss the IRC Awards Committee. Commissioners Ricarte and Obregon invited interested Commissioners to join the committee and help plan this year's awards. Commissioner Abdou asked for more information about what is needed and how she can help, and Vice Chair Chaudhary volunteered to join the committee.

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

## **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 provided updates on the annual Language Access Compliance Summary Report and two upcoming naturalization workshops: the Lawyers in the Library workshop on January 16, 2024 at the San Francisco Public Library, and the San Francisco Pathways to Citizenship Initiative workshop on January 27, 2024 at St. Anne of the Sunset in San Francisco. Commissioner Abdou asked Director Rivas if the flyers for the San Francisco Public Library workshop could be translated into Vietnamese and Arabic.

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 Commissioners' 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 annual Statements of Economic Interests (Form 700) on NetFile by April 2, 2024. Commissioner Qiu asked if the proposed amendments to the Language Access Ordinance would change this requirement, and Director Rivas noted that that was part of the proposed amendments, but that Commissioners must comply with the current requirements.

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

**9. New Business**

*(Information)*

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

Commissioner Souza introduced a proposed resolution on affordable housing. Commissioner Obregon introduced a proposed resolution in support of a cease-fire, and a proposed letter to

the Mayor's budget office asking them to sustain critical services for immigrants.

Commissioner Ricarte asked Director Rivas if Commissioner Obregon's proposed cease-fire resolution could be approved by the Executive Committee following today's vote. Director Rivas recommended that the Executive Committee discuss the item and determine if it can move forward or if it should be brought it back to the Full Commission. Commissioner Obregon said her hope is that the Board of Supervisors will pass their resolution.

#### **10. Adjournment**

Vice Chair Chaudhary adjourned the meeting at 7:05 p.m.

**Communications to the Immigrant Rights Commission**  
**January 8, 2024**

*Note: Personal information that is provided in communications to the Immigrant Rights Commission is subject to disclosure under the California Public Records Act and the San Francisco Sunshine Ordinance. Personal information provided will not be redacted.*

*Members of the public are not required to provide personal identifying information when they communicate with the Immigrant Rights Commission. All written or oral communications that members of the public submit to the Immigrant Rights Commission regarding pending legislation or hearings will be made available to all members of the public for inspection and copying. The Immigrant Rights Commission does not redact any information from these submissions. This means that personal information—including names, phone numbers, addresses and similar information that a member of the public elects to submit to the Commission—may appear on the Immigrant Rights Commission’s website or in other public documents that members of the public may inspect or copy.*

**From:** Sarah Lee <sarah.lee111@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, January 8, 2024 3:34 PM  
**To:** Engagement, Civic (ADM) <civic.engagement@sfgov.org>  
**Subject:** Public Comment - IRC Support for Ceasefire Resolution

Dear SF Immigrant Rights Commission,

My name is Sarah Lee, and I'm an immigrant justice organizer in the Bay Area. I've worked on local and statewide policies on immigration for the past seven years, including in San Francisco. I'm writing in support of the statement the commission has put together in support of the ceasefire resolution, introduced by Supervisor Preston.

Anyone who has worked with immigrants and refugees cannot ignore the root drivers of forced migration. The U.S. has long been involved with facilitating unlivable conditions in other countries that traumatically displaces people from their homelands. The ceasefire resolution is a local issue, as people living in the U.S. whose tax dollars are being used for military aid to Israel. The ceasefire resolution is a local issue for San Francisco, a city that has prided itself to be a refuge for immigrants and refugees.

The genocide that has been documented throughout the last three months against the Palestinian people has shocked the masses, and the bare minimum is calling for a ceasefire. I appreciate that the IRC has put together a statement in support of the ceasefire resolution, and urge for its swift submission.

Thank you,  
Sarah

