



# 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**  
**February 12, 2024 at 5:30 pm PST**

**Online:** <https://sfpublish.webex.com/sfpublish/j.php?MTID=m143a76ac4adfc92ddb917e700bbdf31d>

**Phone:** 1-415-655-0001 / Access code: 2661 201 2917 / 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**

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

Present: Chair Kennelly, Vice Chair Chaudhary (5:48 p.m.), Commissioners Abdou, Enssani, Gaime, Obregon (5:50 p.m.), Paz, Qiu, Ricarte, Senghor, Souza, Wang.

Also present: Former Commissioner Latt.

Excused: Commissioner Ruiz.

OCEIA staff present: Director Rivas, Clerk Shore, Newcomer and Immigrant Services Specialist Sarabia, Policy and Civic Engagement Officer Noonan.

### 2. **Ramaytush Ohlone Land Acknowledgment**

We, the San Francisco Immigrant Rights Commission, acknowledge that we are on the unceded ancestral homeland of the Ramaytush Ohlone who are the original inhabitants of the San Francisco Peninsula. As the indigenous stewards of this land and in accordance with their traditions, the Ramaytush Ohlone have never ceded, lost nor forgotten their responsibilities as the caretakers of this place, as well as for all peoples who reside in their traditional territory. As guests, we recognize that we benefit from living and working on their traditional homeland. We wish to pay our respects by acknowledging the ancestors, elders and relatives of the Ramaytush Community and by affirming their sovereign rights as First Peoples.

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.

Chair Kennelly invited members of the public to make public comment.

David Bogachik of the Ukrainian refugee community, whose program is fiscally sponsored and overseen by La Raza Community Resource Center, discussed challenges faced by Ukrainian refugees and asked the Commission to support their initiative to create a Ukrainian resource and cultural center to provide essential services to Ukrainians in their language, including case management, advocacy and rights, workforce development, mental health, and housing. He also provided interpretation for several other speakers.

The second speaker expressed the need for a Ukrainian resource and cultural center.

The third speaker discussed the challenges of finding work in the United States.

The fourth speaker, Darien Rose, expressed the need for a Ukrainian resource and cultural center.

The fifth speaker, Natalia, discussed the challenges of finding housing and suggested a letter that would help families like hers access housing.

The sixth speaker expressed the need for a Ukrainian resource and cultural center.

The seventh speaker, Julia, expressed the need for a Ukrainian resource and cultural center.

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

*(Discussion/Action)*

- a. Approval of January 8, 2024 Full Commission Meeting Minutes  
Discussion and action to approve the minutes of the Immigrant Rights Commission's Full Commission meeting of January 8, 2024.

[January 8, 2024 IRC meeting minutes](#)

Vice Chair Chaudhary made a motion to approve the minutes of January 8, 2024, seconded by Commissioner Souza. Chair Kennelly called for public comment and there was no public comment on this item. The motion was approved by the 12 Commissioners present.

**5. Recognizing Commissioner Latt**

*(Information)*

This item allows Chair Kennelly and Director Rivas to recognize Commissioner Latt for his service on the Commission, and allows Commissioner Latt to make brief remarks.

Chair Kennelly and Director Rivas thanked Commissioner Latt for his leadership on the Commission, including his role organizing the special hearing on LGBTQIA+ immigrants. Commissioner Latt thanked the Commission and OCEIA staff and said he will be leaving the

Commission to dedicate himself to his new role at USCIS.

**6. 2024 Language Access Compliance Summary Report**

*(Information/Discussion)*

This item allows Policy and Civic Engagement Officer Chloe Noonan to provide the Commission with an overview of the [2024 Language Access Compliance Summary Report](#), which evaluates City departments' compliance with the Language Access Ordinance. The report was sent to the Immigrant Rights Commission on February 1, 2024.

Policy and Civic Engagement Officer Chloe Noonan provided an overview of the 2024 Language Access Compliance Summary Report. She answered questions from Commissioners on issues including City Departments' language services budgets and performance, Departments required to file reports, report follow-up actions, City employees' language capacity, enforcement of the Language Access Ordinance, OCEIA's technical assistance, and threshold languages. Director Rivas noted that Supervisor Walton will be calling for a hearing on the Language Access Ordinance report and proposed amendments, and Chair Kennelly will speak on behalf of the Commission. Commissioners who would like to provide feedback on the proposed amendments may send their suggestions to Chair Kennelly, Vice Chair Chaudhary and Director Rivas. Chair Kennelly called for public comment and there was no public comment on this item.

**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, including the IRC Strategic Planning Retreat and the Immigrant Leadership Awards.

Chair Kennelly stated that the Commission's strategic planning retreat is scheduled for Monday, March 11, 2024 at 5:00 p.m. Clerk Shore will send Commissioners pre-retreat surveys. Clerk Shore has drafted the Commission's annual report and recommendations from the Commission's special hearing on workforce development, which will be finalized soon. OCEIA is scheduling a meeting with USCIS.

- b. Immigrant Leadership Awards Committee (Chair Kennelly, Commissioners Ricarte and Obregon)

Information on the 2024 Immigrant Leadership Awards, which honors the contributions of local immigrant leaders and champions of immigrant committees, and the first

meeting of the Awards Committee.

The Immigrant Leadership Awards are scheduled for June 10, 2024. Commissioner Obregon noted that the Awards Committee's first meeting is on Wednesday, February 14. All Commissioners are invited to submit nominations for the awards. Commissioner Ricarte encouraged Commissioners to consider communities and achievements that have not yet been recognized by the Commission.

**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 an update on the April 6 San Francisco Pathways to Citizenship Initiative workshop.

b. Reappointment Hearings for Board-Appointed Commissioners

Four Board-appointed Commissioners are up for reappointment by the Board of Supervisors as of June 6, 2023. The reappointment hearing is tentatively scheduled for the Rules Committee's March 4, 2024 meeting at 10:00 a.m.

Director Rivas provided an update on the upcoming reappointment hearing for Immigrant Rights Commissioners.

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 submit their Statement of Economic Interest (Form 700) by April 2, 2024.

**9. New Business**  
*(Information)*

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

There was no new business.

**10. Adjournment**

Chair Kennelly adjourned the meeting at 7:23 p.m.