



CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO **IMMIGRANT RIGHTS COMMISSION**

San Francisco Immigrant Rights Commission Executive Committee Meeting 1145 Market Street, Suite 100 April 30, 2025 at 5:30 pm PDT

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 Souza called the meeting to order at 5:42 p.m.

Present: Chair Souza, Vice Chair Chaudhury, Commissioner Kennelly.

Excused: Commissioner Paz.

Also present: Commissioners Fara, Ng.

OCEIA staff present: Director Rivas, Clerk Sarabia.

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 Souza 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 March 26, 2025 Executive Committee meeting.

[IRC Executive Committee Meeting Minutes 3.26.25](#)

Vice Chair Chaudhury motioned to approve the minutes, seconded by Commissioner Kennelly. The motion was approved.

5. Discussion/Action Items

a. Planning Upcoming IRC Hearings

(Discussion/Action)

This item allows Director Rivas and Commissioner Fara to discuss the May Full Commission meeting on travel bans, and allows the Executive Committee to discuss plans for future meetings.

Commissioner Fara provided an overview of the upcoming hearing on travel bans. Spojmie Nasiri from the Council on American-Islamic Relations will present on the previous travel ban and what we can expect from a potential future travel ban. Commissioner Fara asked commissioners to help share the flyer for the event. Vice Chair Chaudhury suggested that Commissioners have the opportunity to ask questions of the May meeting speaker first, followed by public comment.

Director Rivas shared the two other topics for future meetings discussed at the Commission's strategic planning retreat: the impact on transgender immigrants and the state of sanctuary city policies. The former would be led by Commissioner Ruiz while the latter would potentially be hosted in collaboration

with the Human Rights Commission and spearheaded by Commissioner Obregon.

Chair Souza shared that Commissioner Ruiz could schedule the hearing on transgender immigrants in July, and Director Rivas noted that the Commission may take the months of July and/or August off and could plan to hold the larger joint hearing in September. Commissioner Souza shared that Commissioner Paz was interested in a presentation to the Commission around housing for immigrants. Director Rivas shared that this could be later in the year.

b. Immigrant Leadership Award Recipients (Vice Chair Chaudhary and Commissioner Obregon)

This item allows Vice Chair Chaudhary and Commissioner Obregon to present the list of nominees recommended by the Awards Committee and allows the Executive Committee to discuss the recommendations, make any final changes to the list, and finalize and vote on the 2025 Immigrant Leadership Award recipients.

After a robust discussion, Commissioner Kennelly motioned to approve the awardees, seconded by Vice-Chair Chaudhury. The motion was approved.

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.

Director Rivas shared upcoming events, including the work permit clinic and the Welcoming America audit. He also reminded the Commission about the resolution on travel bans and statement on the ongoing support for sanctuary city policies.

Director Rivas shared that the language access hearing is scheduled for May 21. Chair Souza asked about unified Commission messaging on language access. OCEIA will provide a report on the Language Access Ordinance, the amendments and associated costs. Commissioners are invited to attend the press conference.

b. Reappointment Hearings

This item allows the OCEIA Director to provide an update on the scheduling of IRC reappointment hearings.

Director Rivas shared that the Rules Committee wants to schedule the reappointments hearing soon. He asked that Commissioners reapply for their seats. More seats are expiring in June. Commissioner Enssani has resigned, and two seats are currently vacant.

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.

Vice Chair Chaudhury raised the issue of USCIS fee increases and asked about signing onto a letter from Representative Liccardo submitted to Congress on limiting fee hikes. Director Rivas will ask the Mayor's Office.

8. Adjournment

Chair Souza adjourned the meeting at 7:04 p.m.