



# CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO

# IMMIGRANT RIGHTS COMMISSION

## San Francisco Immigrant Rights Commission

### Executive Committee Meeting

1145 Market Street, Suite 100

January 28, 2026 at 5:30 pm PT

**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 5:35 p.m.

Present: Chair Souza, Vice Chair Chaudhary, Commissioner Paz.

Not present: Commissioner Kennelly (excused).

Also present: Commissioners Aljiran (5:40 p.m.), Fara, How, Ng.

OCEIA staff present: Director Rivas, Clerk Shore.

#### 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 November 13, 2025 Executive Committee meeting.

Commissioner Paz motioned to approve the November 13, 2025 Executive Committee meeting minutes, seconded by Vice Chair Chaudhary. Chair Souza called for public comment and there was no comment on this item. The minutes were approved.

[IRC Executive Committee meeting minutes 11.13.25](#)

**5. Discussion/Action Items**

a. IRC Awards Committee (Chair Souza)  
(Discussion/Action)

This item allows Chair Souza to name the Awards Committee co-chairs and members, and to schedule the first meeting of the Awards Committee. The committee works with OCEIA to plan the Immigrant Leadership Awards event in June.

Director Rivas provided an overview of the work of the Awards Committee and Chair Souza invited Commissioners to join the committee. Commissioner Fara volunteered to serve as co-chair, and Commissioners How, Paz, and Vice Chair Chaudhary volunteered to serve as committee members. Note from OCEIA staff: Commissioner Aljiran, who expressed interest during the meeting in serving as a co-chair, later declined to join the committee.

b. Follow-Up Actions from IRC Retreat: 2026 IRC Action Plan  
(Discussion/Action)

This item allows the Executive Committee to move forward with the 2026 Action Plan approved at the IRC strategic planning retreat on January 12, 2026:

1. Local Response to Federal Civil Immigration Enforcement

a. Follow-Up on October Resolution Recommendations  
(Discussion/Action)

This item allows the Executive Committee to identify and assign Commissioners to follow up on the recommendations from the IRC's October resolution and to discuss which recommendations to prioritize. This can be included as a standing item in future IRC meetings.

Chair Souza and Director Rivas provided an overview of the follow-up action

approved at the IRC retreat. Vice Chair Chaudhary volunteered to work with Commissioner Obregon, in addition to Commissioners Ng and Ratanapakdee, to determine which recommendations to prioritize this year and bring a plan to the Executive Committee.

b. Strategic Outreach to Supervisors

(Discussion/Action)

This item allows the Executive Committee to discuss protocols for outreach to Supervisors.

Commissioners discussed strategic outreach protocols and strategies to liaise with members of the Board of Supervisors. Vice Chair Chaudhary volunteered to draft a relationship mapping document to bring to the next Executive Committee meeting for Commissioners to fill in.

2. Advocating for Immigrant Services

a. Letter on Immigrant Community Priorities

(Discussion/Action)

This item allows the Executive Committee to assign a Commissioner to draft a letter to City leadership expressing the needs of immigrant communities for services.

Chair Souza invited Commissioner Ng to take the lead in drafting a letter on immigrant community priorities to bring to the next Executive Committee meeting for discussion, and Commissioner Ng agreed. Clerk Shore will reshare the IRC's previous letter on immigrant community priorities written by Commissioner Obregon.

b. IRC Hearings on Public Health and Other Topics

(Discussion/Action)

This item allows the Executive Committee to assign a Commissioner to organize a hearing on public health, to discuss possible dates for the hearing, and to discuss other special topic presentations to hold throughout year. Each hearing will be led by a Commissioner who will be invited to the Executive Committee meeting to discuss their plans for the hearing. The hearing on public health was introduced by Commissioner Paz.

Commissioner Paz volunteered to take the lead in organizing a hearing on access to health care, and will bring a plan to the next Executive Committee meeting.

Commissioners discussed a framework for the hearing and potential speakers to invite.

c. **Public Comment on Programs and Services**  
*(Discussion/Action)*

This item allows the Executive Committee to discuss communication with the City Administrator on public comments received and to facilitate a meeting between the City Administrator and community. This item allows the Executive Committee to review proposed communications. This item was introduced by Commissioner Obregon.

Chair Souza presented her draft letter and asked Commissioners for their feedback. Commissioners made edits, and Vice Chair Chaudhary motioned to approve the letter as amended and send it to the City Administrator, seconded by Commissioner Paz. Chair Souza called for public comment and there was no comment on this item. The motion was approved.

**6. Staff Reports**

*(Information)*

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 provided updates on the Commission Streamlining Task Force, communications and preparation for the Super Bowl, upcoming citizenship workshops and work permit clinics, the DreamSF Fellowship call for applications, and the City budget.

**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 Ng suggested that the Commission issue a resolution commending Rich Whipple and introduced a draft.

Commissioner How suggested that the Commission issue a resolution in support of AB 1633 (Haney) on the taxation of private detention facilities.

Commissioner Paz will attend a meeting on SFUSD's plans to close International High School and cut newcomer services. Chair Souza and Commissioner Padilla also plan to attend. Commissioner Paz can report back on what he learns. He suggested potentially issuing a resolution on the matter.

Commissioner Fara discussed how to follow up on the IRC's resolution condemning the travel ban, including contacting SFO and the Airport Commission about budgeting for an immigrant resource hub. Director Rivas reminded Commissioners that the IRC advises the Mayor and Board of Supervisors, and noted that advising SFO falls outside of its purview.

Vice Chair Chaudhary and Commissioner Paz noted that they had been contacted by the Human Rights Commission. Chair Souza said the IRC can discuss how to ensure that its actions are aligned with its strategic planning.