



CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO

IMMIGRANT RIGHTS COMMISSION

**San Francisco Immigrant Rights Commission
Executive Committee Meeting
1145 Market Street, Suite 100
February 25, 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 5:41 p.m.

Present: Chair Souza, Vice Chair Chaudhary (left at 6:38 p.m.), Commissioners Kennelly (5:53 p.m.), Paz.

Also present: Commissioners Aljiran (5:53 p.m.), Ng, Padilla (5:44 p.m.).

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 January 28, 2026 Executive Committee meeting.

Vice Chair Chaudhary motioned to approve the minutes of January 28, 2026, seconded by Commissioner Paz. Chair Souza called for public comment and there was no comment on this item. The motion was approved.

[IRC Executive Committee meeting minutes 1.28.26](#)

5. Discussion/Action Items

a. IRC Annual Report

(Information/Discussion/Action)

This item allows Director Rivas to present the IRC Annual Report written by OCEIA on the Commission's work during 2025, and invite the Executive Committee to review, edit and approve the report's recommendations.

Director Rivas presented the 2026 IRC Annual Report written by Senior Immigrant Affairs Advisor Shore. Commissioner Paz motioned to approve the report's recommendations, seconded by Vice Chair Chaudhary. Chair Souza called for public comment and there was no comment on this item. The motion was approved.

b. Draft Resolution Commending Rich Whipple (Commissioner Ng)

(Discussion/Action)

This item allows Commissioner Ng to present a draft resolution commending Rich Whipple, and allows Commissioners to discuss, suggest edits, and take possible action. This item was introduced by Commissioner Ng at the Executive Committee's January 28 meeting.

Commissioner Ng provided an overview of his draft resolution and Vice Chair suggested an amendment. Vice Chair Chaudhary motioned to approve the resolution as amended, seconded by Commissioner Paz. Chair Souza called for public comment and there was no comment on this item. The resolution was approved by the three Executive Committee members present (Chair Souza, Vice Chair Chaudhary, and Commissioner Paz) and will move to the Full Commission for a vote.

c. Report-Back on Potential SFUSD Cuts to Newcomer Services (Commissioner Paz)

(Information/Discussion/Action)

This item allows Commissioner Paz to report back on the status of potential cuts to SFUSD's newcomer services, and allows Commissioners to discuss and take possible action, including issuing a resolution. This item was introduced by Commissioner Paz at the Executive Committee's January 28 meeting.

Commissioner Paz provided an overview of the meeting he attended at International High School, and proposed that the Commission write a letter to the Mayor and Board of Supervisors urging them to support immigrant students. He also suggested inviting SFUSD to provide a policy presentation to the Commission. In response to a question from Vice Chair Chaudhary, Director Rivas will investigate the consequences of writing a letter directly to SFUSD. He suggested that the Commission send a letter to the Mayor and Board of Supervisors, with a copy to SFUSD. Commissioners Padilla and Paz will draft a letter to bring to the next Executive Committee meeting. Chair Souza called for public comment and there was no comment on this item.

d. 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 (Vice Chair Chaudhary and Commissioner Obregon)
(Discussion/Action)

This item allows Vice Chair Chaudhary and Commissioner Obregon to present a plan of which recommendations from the IRC's October resolution to prioritize, and discuss assigning Commissioners to them. This can be included as a standing item in future IRC meetings.

Vice Chair Chaudhary discussed her meeting with Commissioner Obregon, and the three topics they identified from the resolution: immigration enforcement; strengthening San Francisco's Sanctuary Policy; and advocating for legal services. Commissioner Paz suggested creating a Sanctuary Policy 2.0 in partnership with a Supervisor. Chair Souza asked which recommendations from the resolution the Commission should prioritize this year. Chair Souza and Director Rivas suggested identifying the specific priorities before assigning Commissioners. Vice Chair Chaudhary and Commissioner Obregon will report back at the next Executive Committee meeting.

b. Strategic Outreach to Supervisors (Vice Chair Chaudhary)
(Discussion/Action)

This item allows Vice Chair Chaudhary to present a draft plan for assigning Commissioners to liaise with Supervisors, and allows Commissioners to discuss protocols for outreach to Supervisors.

Vice Chair Chaudhary presented her draft plan for assigning Commissioners to liaise with Supervisors, together with Chair Souza and OCEIA staff. Director Rivas noted that the draft is for planning purposes only. The objective is for the Commission to think about how to engage City leadership with each action they take. He stressed the need to manage messaging and ensure that all communications go through Chair Souza.

2. Advocating for Immigrant Services

a. Letter on Immigrant Community Priorities (Commissioner Ng)
(Discussion/Action)

This item allows Commissioner Ng to present a draft letter expressing the needs of immigrant communities for services, and allows Commissioners to discuss, provide feedback, and take possible action.

Commissioner Ng presented his draft letter on immigrant community priorities and Commissioners made suggested edits. Chair Souza motioned to approve the letter as amended, seconded by Commissioner Paz. Chair Souza called for public comment and there was no comment on this item. The motion passed and the letter will move to the Full Commission for a vote.

b. IRC Hearing on Public Health (Commissioner Paz)
(Discussion/Action)

This item allows Commissioner Paz to present a plan for a hearing on access to health care, and allows Commissioners to discuss and provide feedback on the plan, including the hearing's focus, invited speakers, and potential timeline.

Commissioner Paz discussed plans and potential dates for the hearing on health care access. He may be unavailable in May, so the hearing could take place after June. He also discussed the possibility of hosting the hearing in partnership with a Supervisor.

c. Public Comment on Programs and Services (Chair Souza)
(Information/Discussion/Action)

This item allows Chair Souza to provide an update on the letter she submitted to the City Administrator and allows Commissioners to discuss and take possible follow-up actions.

Chair Souza submitted the letter to the City Administrator and did not receive a response.

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

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 provided updates on the San Francisco Pathways to Citizenship Initiative workshop, OCEIA clinics to help asylum seekers fight pretermission, the City budget, and OCEIA's new deputy director.

b. IRC Awards Committee

This item allows Director Rivas to announce the Awards Committee's first meeting, scheduled for Wednesday, March 4, 2026 at 5:00 p.m. The committee is co-chaired by Commissioners Fara and Obregon, with Vice Chair Chaudhary, Commissioner How, and Commissioner Paz serving as members.

The Awards Committee meeting is scheduled for March 4, 2026.

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 Aljiran introduced a potential IRC resolution, statement, or letter on the California 2026 Billionaire Tax Act and its impact on tech workers, including immigrants. She noted that the Commission rarely addresses the concerns of tech workers and high-income immigrants. She can provide a policy analysis of the impact on immigrants and historical

precedent.

Commissioner Aljiran also suggested inviting a speaker to provide an education presentation on the CEO tax ballot measure.

8. Adjournment

Chair Souza adjourned the meeting at 7:13 p.m.