

Minutes of the April 29, 2026 meeting of the IRC Executive Committee

Date and Time

April 29, 2026 at 5:30 p.m.

Location

- 1145 Market Street, Suite #100, San Francisco, CA 94103
- [View the meeting online](#)
- Call in to listen:
 - 415-655-0001
 - Access code: 2662 361 7546 / Webinar password: 2026

Overview

Members of the Immigrant Rights 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 time. For each agenda item, there is one comment per person. Members of the public may also submit public comment by email to: civic.engagement@sfgov.org.

Agenda items

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

Chair Souza called the meeting to order at 5:34 p.m.

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

Note present: Commissioner Kennelly (excused).

Also present: Commissioners Abdou, Fara, Ng, Obregon, Padilla (6:07 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

City and County of San Francisco
Immigrant Rights Commission

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 acknowledgement statement.

3. General Public Comment

This item allows 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 general 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 25, 2026 Executive Committee meeting.

[March 25, 2026 IRC Executive Committee meeting minutes](#)

Vice Chair Chaudhary motioned to approve the minutes of March 25, 2026, seconded by Commissioner Paz. Chair Souza called for public comment and there was no comment on this item. The motion passed.

5. Discussion/Action Item: Immigrant Leadership Award Recipients (Commissioners Fara and Obregon)

(Discussion/Action)

This item allows Commissioners Fara and 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 2026 Immigrant Leadership Award recipients.

Commissioner Obregon provided an overview of the Awards Committee's recommendations, and Commissioners discussed the nominees. The Executive Committee narrowed down the recipients to two awardees in the entrepreneur leader category and one awardee in each of the other categories. Commissioner Paz motioned to approve the slate of recipients as amended, seconded by Vice Chair Chaudhary. Chair Souza called for public comment and there was no comment on this item. The motion was approved.

6. Discussion/Action Item: Update on Language Access Quarterly Complaint Report and Implementation of Vietnamese as a Required Language (Director Rivas)

(Discussion/Action)

This item allows Director Rivas to provide an update on OCEIA's quarterly language access complaint report and the implementation of Vietnamese as a required language, and allows the

City and County of San Francisco
Immigrant Rights Commission

Executive Committee to discuss and take possible action.

Director Rivas provided an update on language access. Vice Chair Chaudhary motioned to include a language access update at the Full Commission meeting, seconded by Commissioner Paz. Chair Souza called for public comment and there was no comment on this item. The motion was approved.

7. Discussion/Action Item: Follow-Up on October Resolution Recommendations (Vice Chair Chaudhary and Commissioner Obregon)

(Discussion/Action)

This item allows Vice Chair Chaudhary and Commissioner Obregon to identify which recommendations from the IRC's October [resolution](#) to prioritize.

Vice Chair Chaudhary discussed reaching out to Supervisors about strengthening the City's sanctuary policy, and Commissioner Obregon discussed following up on the IRC's letter on immigrant priorities. Director Rivas noted that he had met with Vice Chair Chaudhary to identify priorities from the IRC's October resolution. In response to a recommendation from Director Rivas, Chair Souza called Items 7 and 8 together. There was no public comment on this item.

8. Discussion/Action Item: Strategic Outreach to Supervisors: Follow-up to Letter on Immigrant Priorities (Director Rivas)

(Discussion/Action)

This item allows Director Rivas to discuss strategic outreach to Supervisors as a follow-up to the letter the Commission approved on immigrant priorities.

Director Rivas has not yet connected with Vice Chair Chaudhary on developing guidelines, but suggested that the IRC's letter on immigrant priorities be the first exercise for the Chair and one other Commissioner to meet with Supervisors.

Chair Souza proposed that she and Commissioner Ng reach out to Supervisors, and she and Commissioner Abdou reach out to the Mayor's Office, regarding the IRC's letter on immigrant priorities, and then report back to the Full Commission. Commissioners Ng and Abdou accepted. Chair Souza nominated Vice Chair Chaudhary and Commissioner Obregon to work on outreach and follow-up actions from the recommendation on strengthening the City's sanctuary policy. Vice Chair Chaudhary and Commissioner Obregon accepted. Vice Chair Chaudhary made a motion to assign Commissioners as nominated by Chair Souza, and the motion was seconded by Commissioner Paz. Chair Souza called for public comment and there was no comment on this item. The motion was approved.

9. Discussion/Action Item: IRC Hearing on Public Health (Commissioners Padilla and Paz)

(Discussion/Action)

This item allows Commissioners Padilla and Paz to discuss plans for the hearing on access to health care, including the timeline and suggested speakers, and allows Commissioners to discuss and provide feedback.

Commissioner Paz provided a brief overview of planning for the hearing on health care access, including connecting with Supervisor Chen, identifying the location and speakers, and identifying the date, possibly in September. Commissioner Fara suggested including a speaker on the City's street response. There was no public comment on this item.

10. Discussion/Action Item: Follow-up from Travel Ban Resolution: Proposed Letter on SFO Immigrant Resources (Commissioner Fara)

(Discussion/Action)

This item allows Commissioner Fara to propose a letter in support of establishing immigrant support resources at San Francisco International Airport (SFO) as a follow-up to the IRC's [resolution](#) on travel bans, and allows the Executive Committee to discuss and take possible action. [Draft letter on SFO](#)

Commissioner Fara presented his draft letter and Commissioners made suggested edits, including Commissioners Ng and Obregon who suggested revising the letter to reflect the nuances of municipal and federal jurisdiction. Commissioner Fara asked for cosponsors to work with him on the letter and Commissioners Ng and Obregon volunteered. Commissioner Paz made a motion to amend the letter as suggested, and to move the amended letter forward to the Full Commission meeting after the City Attorney's Office has reviewed it and ensured that it is within the Commission's jurisdiction. Vice Chair Chaudhary seconded the motion. Chair Souza called for public comment and there was no comment on this item. The motion was approved.

11. Discussion/Action Item: Proposed Statement on War in West Asia (Commissioner Aljiran)

(Discussion/Action)

This item allows Commissioner Aljiran to propose a statement denouncing the war in West Asia and reaffirming immigrant rights and resources, and allows the Executive Committee to discuss and take possible action. [Draft statement on the war in West Asia](#)

Commissioner Fara presented Commissioner Aljiran's draft resolution on the war in West Asia. Commissioners made suggested edits, including Commissioner Obregon who suggested reframing it as a local issue to ensure that it is within the Commission's jurisdiction. Commissioner Fara offered to co-sponsor the resolution and Vice Chair Chaudhary offered to help make the suggested edits. Commissioner Paz motioned to move forward with the resolution as amended, to reframe it

City and County of San Francisco
Immigrant Rights Commission

to focus on the local impact as stated by Commissioner Obregon, and to make other amendments as suggested. Vice Chair Chaudhary seconded the motion. Chair Souza called for public comment and there was no comment on this item. The motion was approved.

12. Discussion/Action Item: Potential Presentation by MOHCD (Commissioner Abdou)

(Discussion/Action)

This item allows Commissioner Abdou to propose a potential presentation by MOHCD on housing resources and information for immigrant residents, and allows the Executive Committee to discuss and take possible action.

Director Rivas noted that Commissioner Abdou has connected him with MOHCD to present on housing resources at the May meeting. Director Rivas asked Commissioners to send him questions in advance so he can share them with MOHCD. Vice Chair Paz motioned to include this item at the next Full Commission meeting, seconded by Commissioner Paz. Chair Souza called for public comment and there was no comment on this item. The motion was approved.

Commissioner Abdou asked about a flyer, and Director Rivas said that given the timing, the housing presentation could be postponed. Chair Souza noted the Executive Committee has already voted to calendar the item at the May meeting, and Vice Chair Chaudhary said Commissioners can still invite members of the public.

13. Discussion/Action Item: Proposed Action in Support of AB-2017 (Haney) (Commissioner Abdou)

(Discussion/Action)

This item allows Commissioner Abdou to propose an action in support of [AB-2017 State holidays: Eid \(Haney\)](#), and allows the Executive Committee to discuss and take possible action.

[Draft letter on AB-2017 \(Haney\)](#)

Commissioner Abdou provided an overview of AB-2017 (Haney) to recognize Eid as a state holiday. Director Rivas noted that the Commission can present before the State Legislation Committee to ask the City to take a position in support of the bill. Commissioner Fara, Vice Chair Chaudhary and Chair Souza offered to co-sponsor the item. Commissioner Paz moved to bring to the Full Commission a motion for the IRC to go before the State Legislation Committee to ask the City to support AB-2017, seconded by Vice Chair Chaudhary. Chair Souza called for public comment and there was no comment on this item. The motion was approved.

14. Discussion/Action Item: Proposed Statement on Birthright Citizenship (Commissioner Ng)

(Discussion/Action)

This item allows Commissioner Ng to propose issuing a statement on birthright citizenship, and allows the Executive Committee to discuss and take possible action.

City and County of San Francisco
Immigrant Rights Commission

Commissioner Ng proposed that the Commission release a statement on birthright citizenship after the Supreme Court announces its ruling in the case. Commissioner Obregon suggested that the Commission issue a statement on its position on birthright citizenship rather than a response to the Supreme Court ruling. Chair Souza asked Commissioner Ng to submit a statement. Director Rivas noted that because this item is on the agenda, the Executive Committee may vote to move it forward and empower the Commission Chair to review the draft before the Full Commission meeting. Commissioner Obregon encouraged the Executive Committee to move the item forward, and Chair Souza said she did not feel comfortable moving it forward without a draft. Commissioner Paz made a motion to move forward with presenting a draft statement to the Full Commission for approval on making sure the 14th Amendment is protected, and that the draft language be reviewed prior to the Full Commission meeting. Vice Chair Chaudhary seconded the motion. Chair Souza called for public comment and there was no comment on this item. The motion passed with two votes in favor and one opposed (Chair Souza).

15. Staff Reports: Director's Updates

(Information)

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 an update on the May 27 SF Immigrant Forum webinar on health access in San Francisco, and will share information with Commissioners.

16. 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 Fara proposed a statement calling for San Francisco colleges and universities to be sanctuary campuses. Chair Souza, Commissioner Paz, and Commissioner Obregon asked to be added as co-sponsors. Director Rivas noted that the item needs to be agendaized before an action can be taken.

Commissioner Abdou suggested that the Commission consider issuing regular commendations.

Chair Souza suggested that the Commission schedule a policy presentation at its July meeting, and the Executive Committee can decide on the topic. Vice Chair Chaudhary suggested that the Full Commission help decide on which policy issue to discuss.

Commissioner Padilla asked about the New Business item she introduced at the Full Commission meeting related to holding a discussion on policy. Director Rivas will meet with her to get more clarity on the item.

City and County of San Francisco
Immigrant Rights Commission

17. Adjournment

Chair Souza adjourned the meeting at 8:12 p.m.