

Minutes from the May 27, 2026 meeting of the IRC Executive Committee

Date and Time

May 27, 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 676 5337 / 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 5:42 p.m.

Present: Chair Souza, Vice Chair Chaudhary.

Not present: Commissioner Paz (excused).

Also present: Commissioners How (left at 7:07 p.m.), Kennelly (5:55 p.m.), Ng, Obregon (left at 7:03 p.m.), Padilla (5:56 p.m.), Ratanapakdee.

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

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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 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 April 29, 2026 Executive Committee meeting.

[IRC Executive Committee meeting minutes - April 29, 2026](#)

Chair Souza motioned to approve the April 29, 2026 minutes, seconded by Vice Chair Chaudhary. Chair Souza called for public comment, and there was no comment on this item. The motion was approved.

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

(Discussion/Action)

This item allows Awards Committee Co-Chairs Fara and Obregon, members Vice Chair Chaudhary, Commissioner How, and Commissioner Paz, and OCEIA staff to discuss plans for the Immigrant Leadership Awards on June 8, 2026.

Commissioner Obregon and Director Rivas provided an overview of planning for the 2026 Immigrant Leadership Awards. Commissioners are asked to invite community members and consulates. Chair Souza called for public comment, and there was no comment on this item.

6. Discussion Item: Review of IRC Retreat Policy Priority Areas and 2026 Action Plan (Director Rivas)

(Discussion)

This item allows Director Rivas to review the IRC's policy priority areas and action plan approved at its 2026 Strategic Planning Retreat, and allows the Executive Committee to discuss.

[IRC meeting minutes – January 12, 2026](#)

Chair Souza noted that Commissioner Padilla suggested adding this item to the agenda. Commissioner Padilla discussed the importance of being intentional about ensuring that the

Commission's action items reflect the priorities the Commission identified at its retreat. Director Rivas reviewed the priority areas and action items identified at the retreat, and Commissioners discussed how to be more strategic and impactful. In response to a question from Commissioners, Director Rivas reviewed the process to introduce an item to the Commission. Once approved by the Executive Committee, the item goes to the Full Commission for approval. Chair Souza can work with Director Rivas on guidelines to bring to the Executive Committee. Chair Souza called for public comment, and there was no comment on this item.

7. Discussion/Action Item: Follow-up Actions from Letter on Immigrant Priorities, Letter on SFUSD, October Resolution Recommendations

(Discussion/Action)

This item allows Chair Souza and the Executive Committee to discuss strategic outreach to Supervisors as a follow-up to the letter the Commission sent to City leadership on immigrant priorities, the letter the Commission sent on SFUSD, and the IRC's 2025 [resolution](#) reaffirming San Francisco's sanctuary commitments.

Director Rivas provided updates on follow-up actions. The letter on City priorities was sent to the Mayor and Board of Supervisors. Chair Souza and Commissioner Abdou will meet with the Mayor's Office, and then Chair Souza and Commissioner Ng will schedule a meeting with Supervisor Chan. The letter on SFUSD resources for immigrant students was sent to the Mayor and Board of Supervisors, and Commissioner Padilla noted that some resources have been restored. Commissioner Padilla will report back on the impact and follow up. Chair Souza has assigned Vice Chair Chaudhary and Commissioner Obregon to work on strengthening sanctuary city policies. Vice Chair Chaudhary and Commissioner Obregon suggested checking in with Supervisors on their priorities and reporting back to the Commission. Chair Souza reminded Vice Chair Chaudhary and Commissioner Obregon to coordinate with Director Rivas before meeting with Supervisors. Director Rivas suggested keeping this item on the agenda. Chair Souza called for public comment, and there was no comment on this item.

8. Discussion/Action Item: Planning for Policy Presentations for Upcoming Full Commission Meetings (Chair Souza)

(Discussion/Action)

This item allows Chair Souza to discuss planning policy presentations for upcoming IRC Full Commission meetings, and allows the Executive Committee to discuss and take possible action. Commissioner Abdou introduced an item on a possible policy presentation by the Public Defender or a community-based organization on the small percentage of San Francisco immigrants represented by an attorney, and Commissioner Paz introduced an item on a possible policy presentation by the Immigrant Legal Resource Center (ILRC) on DACA.

Chair Souza called items 8, 9 and 11 together. Chair Souza nominated Commissioner How to help plan a policy presentation at the Full Commission meeting, and Commissioners discussed how to narrow down the topics of DACA, TPS, Green Cards, and lack of legal representation for San

Francisco immigrants. Commissioner Obregon suggested that the policy presentation focus on workforce and examine the local impact of DACA delays and loss of TPS on San Francisco's workforce, and Chair Souza agreed. Director Rivas suggested combining items 8, 9 and 11, and asking Commissioner How to come back to the Executive Committee meeting with a plan for a policy presentation. Chair Souza made a motion, seconded by Vice Chair Chaudhary. Chair Souza called for public comment, and there was no comment on this item. The motion was approved.

9. Discussion/Action Item: Proposed IRC Presentation and/or Action on DACA (Vice Chair Chaudhary, Commissioner Paz)

(Discussion/Action)

This item allows Vice Chair Chaudhary and Commissioner Paz to propose an action on DACA, and allows the Executive Committee to discuss and take possible action. Vice Chair Chaudhary proposed a statement on DACA and Commissioner Paz proposed a policy presentation.

This item was heard together with item 8.

10. 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 Padilla discussed holding the hearing in September and will report back to the Executive Committee with an outline for the hearing. Commissioner Kennelly suggested including Healthy San Francisco, and Chair Souza noted that the recent SF Immigrant Forum also focused on health care. Chair Souza called for public comment, and there was no comment on this item.

11. Proposed Statement or Resolution in Support of Temporary Protected Status (TPS) Holders (Commissioner How)

(Discussion/Action)

This item allows Commissioner How to propose a statement or resolution to express support for TPS holders in light of the upcoming U.S. Supreme Court decision.

This item was heard together with item 8.

12. Discussion/Action Item: Acknowledging the Community Ambassadors Program at IRC Full Commission Meeting (Commissioner Abdou)

(Discussion/Action)

This item allows Commissioner Abdou to propose acknowledging the Community Ambassadors Program at the IRC Full Commission meeting, and allows the Executive Committee to discuss and take possible action.

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Director Rivas said there were no updates from Commissioner Abdou, and no draft has been received. Director Rivas also noted that the annual awards event is a more impactful way to recognize community members and organizations. Chair Souza continued this item.

13. Discussion/Action Item: Proposed Statement or Letter in Support of Sanctuary Policy at San Francisco Colleges (Commissioner Fara)

(Discussion/Action)

This item allows Commissioner Fara to propose a letter or statement in support of a sanctuary policy at San Francisco colleges and universities, and allows the Executive Committee to discuss and take possible action.

[Draft IRC statement calling for sanctuary at SF colleges](#)

Director Rivas clarified that the rumors of ICE presence at San Francisco State University were false. Vice Chair Chaudhary said that San Francisco State University and City College are already sanctuary campuses, according to ICE Out, and that this statement is moot. Chair Souza motioned to table this item, seconded by Vice Chair Chaudhary.

14. Information/Discussion/Action Item: Follow-Up from Overview of the S.F. City Attorney's Political Activity Memo and Potential Legal Implications of Adding a Presentation and Discussion Regarding a Pending Local Ballot Measure to a Future IRC Agenda (Director Rivas)

(Information/Discussion/Action)

This item allows Director Rivas to provide updates on the follow-up from the Overview of the S.F. City Attorney's Political Activity Memo and Potential Legal Implications of Adding a Presentation and Discussion Regarding a Pending Local Ballot Measure to a Future IRC Agenda, and allows the Executive Committee to discuss and take possible action.

Director Rivas noted that the San Francisco Controller's Office released a report on the economic impact of Proposition D that he can share with the Commission. Also pending on the state ballot initiative on the billionaire tax. Vice Chair Chaudhary asked him to share with the Commission if the State Controller's Office issues a report on the tax's economic impact. Chair Souza suggested waiting until after the elections to discuss, if a Commissioner brings it up.

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 updates on today's San Francisco Immigrant Forum webinar on health care, and the upcoming webinar on housing; an update on the budget and public comment day; the upcoming announcement of Vietnamese as a certified language on June 23; the San Francisco

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Pathways to Citizenship Initiative workshop on June 27; OCEIA's Request for Proposals for immigrant assistance programs; and reports of a confirmed local ICE detention today.

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 Ratanapakdee introduced a resolution on multilingual support for immigrants in light of federal policy changes, and Chair Souza asked her to submit a draft to Director Rivas.

17. Adjournment

Chair Souza adjourned the meeting at 7:29 p.m.