

Minutes from the September 23, 2026 meeting of the IRC Executive Committee

Date and Time

September 23, 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 457 2313 / 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 5:37 p.m.

IRC Commissioners present: Chair Souza, Vice Chair Ng, Commissioner Paz (5:46 p.m.)

Also present: How (left at 5:56 p.m.), Padilla (5:43 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 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 August 26, 2026 Executive Committee meeting.

[IRC Executive Committee meeting minutes – August 26, 2026](#)

Vice Chair Ng motioned to approve the minutes, seconded by Chair Souza. Chair Souza called for public comment and there was no comment on this item. The minutes were approved.

5. Discussion/Action Item: Planning for Workforce Policy Presentation at Full Commission Meeting (Commissioner How)

(Discussion/Action)

This item allows Commissioner How to discuss plans for a policy presentation at a Full Commission meeting on the local impact of DACA delays and loss of TPS on San Francisco's workforce, and allows the Executive Committee to discuss and take possible action.

Vice Chair Ng and Commissioner How provided an overview of planning for the upcoming policy presentation on the local impact of DACA delays and loss of TPS on San Francisco's workforce. OCEIA staff will follow up with Vice Chair Ng and Commissioner How to invite and meet with the two speakers. Chair Souza called for public comment and there were two comments on this item.

1. Anna Robert of Mission Neighborhood Health Center (MNHC) noted that she has several team members who are impacted and asked about the capacity, quality, and cost of resources as well as financial support for those impacted.

2. Willie Ramirez of MNHC noted the importance of the attorney-client relationship in the referral process, and stated that it often requires a larger financial commitment with people versed in immigration law to obtain a positive outcome.

6. Discussion/Action Item: Follow-Up Actions from IRC Hearing on Public Health

(Discussion/Action)

This item allows the Executive Committee to discuss the IRC's recent [hearing](#) on access to health care, and allows the Executive Committee to discuss and take possible action.

[San Francisco Human Services Agency \(SFHSA\) Presentation](#)

[San Francisco Department of Public Health \(SFDPH\) Presentation](#)

[Mission Neighborhood Health Center \(MNHC\) Presentation](#)

Commissioners Paz and Padilla discussed the recent hearing on access to healthcare for immigrant communities. Director Rivas noted that the speakers' presentations are included in today's agenda and Commissioners may ask questions of the invited speakers who are present. Commissioners asked questions of the MNHC representatives and discussed next steps. Vice Chair Ng suggested that the Health Commission may be a more appropriate avenue to provide recommendations on healthcare. Chair Souza suggested that Commissioners Paz and Padilla draft a letter to the Mayor's Office and Board of Supervisors with their recommendations. Commissioner Padilla asked if the letter can move to the Full Commission, and Director Rivas noted that the Executive Committee first needs to decide on what the recommendations are. Vice Chair Ng asked for more time to review MNHC's recommendations. Chair Souza made a motion for Commissioners Paz and Padilla to draft a letter highlighting recommendations to submit to the Full Commission after the draft has been reviewed by the Commission Chair, Vice Chair and Director Rivas to ensure that it is under the IRC's jurisdiction, and has been approved by the Chair and Vice Chair. Commissioner Paz amended the motion to include that the Commission Chair and Vice Chair also follow up with City leaders, and Chair Souza accepted the amendment. Vice Chair Ng seconded the motion. Chair Souza called for public comment and there were four comments.

1. Rosa called for the Human Services Agency (HSA) to assign staff to health clinics to help patients with their renewals on site, noting that it can sometimes take an hour to reach HSA staff by phone.

2. Jesus discussed the urgency to serve the community, and urged the Commission to include embedding HSA at health clinics in their recommendations.

3. Denisse Porter called for the courage to have uncomfortable conversations, and noted that at the end of the day, people will die because of this.

4. Anna Robert noted the information and recommendations MNHC has provided to the Commission and discussed the importance of equity in funding.

Chair Souza called for a vote, and the motion was approved.

7. 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 announcements on Welcoming Week and Belonging in the Bay, noted that Commissioner Chaudhary is leading a letter-writing campaign to oppose the ICE detention of a staff member of Assemblymember Stefani's office, and discussed work by OCEIA, the City Attorney's Office and the Board of Supervisors to address what is happening at the San Francisco International Airport (SFO). He encouraged Commissioners to join the Immigrant Legal Resource Center's biweekly policy calls, and to attend OCEIA's next San Francisco Immigrant Forum webinar which will focus on preventing scams.

8. 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.

Chair Souza noted that the Commission is working on outreach to Supervisors and met with Supervisors and the Mayor's Office to discuss immigrant communities' priorities, said she can provide an update on work with SFO at the next Commission meeting, and encouraged Commissioners to invite community members to the Full Commission meeting.

Commissioner Padilla suggested inviting CARECEN to an Executive Committee meeting.

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

9. Adjournment

Chair Souza adjourned the meeting at 6:53 p.m.