



CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO IMMIGRANT RIGHTS COMMISSION

**San Francisco Immigrant Rights Commission
Full Commission Meeting
San Francisco City Hall, 1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, Room 416
October 27, 2025 at 5:30 pm PDT
[View the hearing online](#)**

Phone: 1-415-655-0001 / **Access code:** 2663 177 2007 / **Webinar password:** 2025

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. Members of the public may also submit public comment by email to: civic.engagement@sfgov.org.

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

Chair Souza called the meeting to order at 5:38 p.m.

Present: Chair Souza, Vice Chair Chaudhary, Commissioners Abdou (left early), Aljiran (5:43 p.m.), Fara, Ng, Obregon, Paz, Ratanapakdee, Ruiz.

Not present: Commissioners Kennelly (excused), Wang (excused).

OCEIA staff present: Director Rivas, Clerk Shore, Assistant Sarabia, Administrative Programs Coordinator Alvarez, Language Assistant Borres, Operations and Grants Administrator Chan, Senior Spanish Language Specialist Cosenza, Language Access and Policy Manager De Carolis, Language Access Data & Research Specialist Nathan, Principal Field Coordinator Parise, Senior Communications Specialist Richardson, Senior Data & Field Systems Coordinator Rivera, Language Services Supervisor Ruiz, Training & Professional Development Projects Coordinator Wang, Deputy Director Whipple, Senior Chinese Language Specialist Wong.

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. Announcements and General Public Comment
(Information)

This item is to allow Director Rivas to provide announcements on interpretation services, public comment, and other information related to today's hearing; and 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.

Director Rivas made announcements on interpretation services and public comment, followed by in-language announcements by the interpreters. Today's meeting is being interpreted in Spanish, Cantonese, Filipino, and Arabic. Chair Souza called for general public comment.

1. Nicky Trasviña thanked the Immigrant Rights Commission and Mayor Lurie and implored San Francisco to adopt non-collaboration legislation and to declare City property as ICE-free zones.

Chair Souza reminded members of the public that general public comment is limited to items that do not appear on today's agenda.

2. A member of the public called the parking restrictions for unhoused San Franciscans cruel, and said she was also concerned about immigration enforcement in Single Room Occupancy (SRO) housing.

3. Alex of the Castro LGBTQ Cultural District noted that queer and transgender immigrants are negatively impacted, expressed support for efforts to maintain safety, and called for a comprehensive plan from the City on how to protect immigrant communities.

4. IRC Hearing on Immigration Enforcement and San Francisco's Local Response Efforts

a. Introduction (Chair Souza, Commissioner Obregon, Director Rivas)
(Information)

This item is to allow Chair Souza, Commissioner Obregon, and Director Rivas to introduce today's hearing and provide an overview of the purpose of the hearing. The hearing will focus on a 2025 update on federal immigration enforcement in San Francisco, what the City is doing to respond to community needs, and what resources are available for individuals and families.

Chair Souza and Commissioner Obregon thanked OCEIA staff and community members, and welcomed members of the public to the IRC's special hearing on immigration enforcement and San Francisco's local response efforts.

b. Invited Speakers

(Information/Discussion)

This item is to allow the Commission to hear from invited speakers on the topic of today's hearing.

1. Milli Atkinson, Director, San Francisco Immigrant Legal Defense Collaborative, Justice & Diversity Center of the Bar Association of San Francisco

Director Atkinson of the San Francisco Immigrant Legal Defense Collaborative (SFILDC) provided an overview of the San Francisco Immigrant Legal Defense Collaborative (SFILDC) and immigration enforcement trends. In 2024, there was an average of 300 immigration enforcement arrests per day nationwide. Since June 2025, there have been up to 1,000 arrests per day nationally. According to Berkeley's Deportation Data Project, 70 percent of those arrested have no criminal record and over 90 percent have no conviction for a violent crime.

In San Francisco, the Rapid Response Network received 45 to 50 calls where they confirmed that a San Francisco resident was arrested and detained by ICE. In addition to legal representation, SFILDC now provides urgent consultations for people with an upcoming ICE check-in or court appointment. The Rapid Response Network has reported a dramatic increase in calls, from 1,200 calls per year to 2,000 calls between July and September 2025. In the last week alone, the hotline received over 650 calls, most of which were false reports or people asking for information about the presence of ICE.

ICE and CBP have conducted immigration enforcement raids in cities including New York, Chicago, Los Angeles, and Portland. The recent Supreme Court decision allows them to racially profile people based on factors including language and where they work. There was an immigration raid at the Home Depot in Sacramento, and there have been violent interactions between ICE agents and community members in the Bay Area.

In San Francisco, ICE has conducted targeted operations at people's homes or workplaces. In August, over 12 people were arrested in collateral arrests at a home in the South of Market neighborhood as part of a joint operation with the DEA. All individuals were taken to ICE for processing. SFILDC is concerned about increased cooperation between ICE and other federal agencies.

San Francisco saw 87 arrests at immigration court between May and October 3, the first time Director Atkinson has seen this type of action. There has also been an increase in

local arrests at ICE check-ins, with about 10 to 15 people arrested per day from across the Bay Area. They are told to come in for an appointment, and then are detained. Over the weekend, 25 people were arrested in Stockton after their ICE check-in.

Successful strategies have included habeas petitions; court observation programs with volunteers; accompaniment programs with Fath in Action and Bay Resistance; volunteering; and legal clinics in partnership with OCEIA and SFILN, including clinics to help people apply for virtual immigration hearings. Director Atkinson called for the Board of Supervisors to move forward with additional funding for SFILN's work, which would allow them to hire more attorneys.

2. Karun Tilak, Deputy City Attorney, San Francisco City Attorney's Office

Deputy City Attorney Tilak provided an overview of San Francisco's sanctuary policies and work preparing for a potential surge in immigration enforcement. The City Attorney's Office has released public guidance to City employees on how to interact with ICE; the Mayor has issued an Executive Directive that requires that City departments train their staff and enhances coordination between City departments and community; and the City Attorney's Office has filed 10 lawsuits to date challenging the federal administration's immigration policies.

3. Police Chief Paul Yep, Commander Jack Hart (Risk Management Office), Director Pat Gorman (Crime Strategies), Officer Lorena Jimenez (Language Access Liaison Officer), San Francisco Police Department

Interim Police Chief Yep stated that the SFPD is committed to building trust with immigrant communities, and recently published a Department notice. He encouraged immigrants to continue reporting crimes, and noted that the SFPD does not ask about immigration status. Commander Hart affirmed that the SFPD does not provide assistance with federal civil immigration enforcement. SFPD officers wear body cameras to document what happens, and, where feasible, verify credentials of those on the scene. Officer Jimenez noted that OCEIA helped translate the SFPD document, which is available in multiple languages. The SFPD also works with LanguageLine Solutions to provide interpretation. Some 573 SFPD members are certified as fluent in another language, and 460 of them are on patrol. The SFPD also conducts quarterly fluency testing.

Reference Document: [Response to Incidents Involving Federal Civil Immigration Enforcement](#)

4. Sheriff Paul Miyamoto, San Francisco Sheriff's Office

Sheriff Miyamoto stated that San Francisco is a sanctuary city, and noted the very limited circumstances in which the Sheriff's Office would notify ICE of an individual in custody. Of the more than 4,000 ICE requests received, the Sheriff's Office has responded to ICE twice. The Sheriff's Office does not engage in civil immigration enforcement. Sheriff Miyamoto issued a bulletin in July following the raids in Los Angeles. Staff are trained to make sure they do not engage with ICE. However, in the case of an unsafe situation or violent acts, they are instructed to render aid if individuals are injured by ICE. The Sheriff's Office has collaborated with OCEIA and DHR, created informational videos, and is considering adding a magnetic ID to unmarked vehicles. There are currently 83 Spanish speakers in the Department, and they use name plates to identify the languages they speak.

5. Angela Chan, Assistant Chief Attorney, and Jennifer Friedman, Immigration Unit Interim Manager, Public Defender's Office, introduced by San Francisco Public Defender Mano Raju

San Francisco Public Defender Mano Raju introduced Jennifer Friedman and Angela Chan of the Public Defender's Office.

Manager Friedman provided an overview of the work of the Immigration Defense Unit. She noted that there has been a large increase in detentions of noncitizens in San Francisco. 630 Sansome is being used for overnight detention, with holds up to 72 hours. The building is meant for brief detention, not overnight detention; the lights remain on 24 hours a day, there is no privacy, and they are not prepared for medical crises. The three closest detention centers, all of them for profit, are Mesa Verde in Bakersfield, Golden State Annex in McFarland, and California City Detention in California City. California City Detention, a previously shutdown federal facility, reopened in September 2025 and is California's largest detention center, with over 2500 beds and poor conditions, including inadequate medical care and nonfunctional plumbing.

Federal immigration policy changes include limitations to individuals being released on bond, mass firings of immigration judges, making it more difficult to apply for asylum, and deportations to third countries.

The Immigration Defense Unit's strategies include rapid response efforts through its Attorney of the Day program, habeas petitions, hiring additional attorneys, ensuring compliance with sanctuary policies, and providing Know Your Rights information. When

an individual witnesses an ICE arrest, they can call the Rapid Response Network. Individuals can make a Family Preparedness Plan, carry the Immigrant Legal Resource Center (ILRC) Red Cards, and consult with an attorney from a trusted San Francisco non-profit organization before going to court. If ICE comes to their home, they can say they do not consent to a search. She noted that sometimes ICE agents may be disguised as police or probation officers. If someone is detained and is afraid to be deported or removed to a third country, they can state their fear and request a credible fear interview. Those with immigration attorneys are five times more likely to win their cases.

Assistant Chief Attorney Chan, who helped draft the local and state immigration laws, noted that updates have been made based on ICE's tactics. The sanctuary ordinance prohibits law enforcement from holding people for extra time. However, the ordinance has some exceptions. She said San Francisco could choose to adopt a stronger policy. San Mateo, Santa Clara, and Alameda Counties now have stronger policies than San Francisco; their policies have no exceptions.

She noted that state sanctuary laws prohibit joint task forces between local law enforcement and federal agencies if immigration enforcement is the primary purpose. For example, she said, Operation All Hands on Deck in the Tenderloin is prohibited if the primary purpose is immigration enforcement. She thanked the SFPD for issuing their directive and asked that they revise the section on assistance with traffic enforcement and maintaining a perimeter, noting that the LAPD directive does not have that leeway.

She recommended that San Francisco provide funding for immigration defense, establish a fund for immigration filing fees, strengthen its sanctuary laws and ensure full compliance with them, and investigate and end the inhumane conditions at 630 Sansome.

6. Richard Whipple, Deputy Director, Office of Civic Engagement & Immigrant Affairs (OCEIA), introduced by Director Jorge Rivas

OCEIA Director Jorge Rivas introduced Deputy Director Whipple, who provided an overview of resources for immigrant community members before, during and after an interaction with immigration enforcement agents. Preparation includes staying informed through the SF Immigrant Forum (sf.gov/immigrants); using the Immigrant Legal Resource Center (ILRC) [Family Preparedness Plan](#); [preparing for financial emergencies](#); accessing trusted, low-cost immigration legal services through OCEIA's [Immigrant Support Hub](#); and participating in the San Francisco Pathways to Citizenship

Initiative's [free citizenship workshops](#) for eligible green card holders and OCEIA's free work permit clinics for eligible asylum seekers. Individuals who witness an immigration enforcement action can call the [San Francisco Rapid Response Network](#) at (415) 200-1548. Following an immigration enforcement action, families can access funds through the Stand Together Bay Area fund for immigrants and their family members, and Mission Asset Fund's ALMA fund.

Reference Documents:

[Public Defender's Office presentation](#)

[OCEIA immigrant rights and resources presentation](#)

Chair Souza thanked the invited speakers and invited Commissioners to ask questions.

In response to questions from Commissioner Obregon, Assistant Chief Attorney Chan noted that that Secure Communities was activated in San Francisco in 2010-2011, leading to the sharing of fingerprint data. San Francisco could strengthen its sanctuary policy by eliminating its exceptions. The Board of Supervisors and the Mayor could launch a formal investigation into the conditions at 630 Sansome Street.

In response to questions from Commissioner Paz, Commander Hart discussed the SFPD policy 25-092 Prohibited Use of Facial Coverings During Law Enforcement Operations; and the SFPD policy 25-089 Response to Incidents Involving Federal Civil Immigration Enforcement. In response to a question from Commissioner Paz about support school districts, Deputy City Attorney Alicia Cabrera noted that San Francisco coordinates with the School District Council.

Commander Hart responded to questions from Commissioner Ng about complying with state laws and training for interactions with federal agents.

Director Atkinson responded to a question from Commissioner Ruiz about fraudulent attorneys, and encouraged community members to work with an attorney listed on OCEIA's Immigration Support Hub.

In response to a question from Commissioner Fara about ICE-free zones, Assistant

Chief Attorney Chan stated that San Francisco could choose to prohibit ICE agents from using City parking lots and garages. For example, there is a parking exception for ICE near 630 Sansome Street.

Director Atkinson responded to a question from Vice Chair Chaudhary about the need for attorneys and expressed support for a budget supplemental to support the work.

In response to a question from Chair Souza, SFPD Commander Hart and San Francisco Sheriff Miyamoto discussed long-term strategies to comply with sanctuary policies, inform community members, and provide opportunities for public engagement.

c. Public Comment

This item is to allow members of the public to address the Commission on matters related to the topic of today's hearing.

Chair Souza thanked members of the public for their written comments. The Commission received written public comments from Allegra Fortunati on questions to address during the hearing; Dina Lisha on adopting non-collaborative legislation and declaring specific City property as ICE-free zones; and Cheryl McKinney asking about what happens when a witness calls 911 to report an ICE arrest. Written comments were also received from Nicky Transvina and Phanny Lun, which were read aloud during the hearing.

Chair Souza invited members of the public to make public comment.

1. Joe stated that he was present July 8 at the courthouse on Montgomery Street, where he said ICE drove through the crowd, and the SFPD did not intervene to protect protesters.

2. Sarah Lee of the Immigrant Legal Resource Center (ILRC) and FREE SF noted that Mayor Lurie welcomed cooperation with other federal agencies; however, this has led to deportation. She called on San Francisco to ensure due process for all and not to cooperate with federal agencies such as the ATF, FBI, or DEA.

3. Miosotti Tenecora, a staff attorney with the ILRC, noted that individuals with a

criminal record have due process rights.

4. Fernando Antunez, a member of FREE SF, spoke in defense of sanctuary and the importance of ensuring that San Francisco does not cooperate with ICE.

5. Manny, chair of the Latino Affairs Commission in Santa Cruz, argued that San Francisco is in violation of its sanctuary law through its contract with Flock Safety, and said that data from surveillance cameras can be accessed by the FBI and shared with DHS.

6. A member of the public encouraged the IRC to recommend that the city take down its Flock Safety surveillance cameras and adopt an ordinance similar to the one enacted in Huntington Park, which protects residents' sensitive information, including immigration status, from being shared with federal agencies.

7. A community outreach worker with Chinese for Affirmative Action, who spoke in Cantonese through an interpreter, described CAA's Know Your Rights campaign in Chinatown on October 22, and business owners' concern that immigration enforcement would impact their livelihoods.

8. Chrystal with Chinese for Affirmative Action stated that the SFPD has allowed other law enforcement agencies to access its data in violation of sanctuary policies. She called for accountability measures and corrective action when violations occur, and called for increased funds to serve immigrant communities.

9. A member of the public who is a parent said there has been no action plan from her children's school to plan for what will happen if ICE agents enter the school.

10. Ben, a software engineer, encouraged the SFPD to terminate its contract with Flock Safety license plate readers, and discussed the SF Standard's reports on data sharing.

11. Omar from the Latino Task Force discussed the difficulties of offering employment services to immigrant community members.

12. Nathan from the SF Living Wage Coalition discussed the Adopt a Corner campaign in which residents monitor for ICE agents at day laborer sites, and urged San Francisco to support this grassroots movement at El Nuevo Sol hiring hall, and not to collaborate with federal immigration enforcement.

13. Juana Flores of Mujeres Unidas y Activas, who spoke in Spanish through an interpreter, noted that the Mam community needs language access services, described a pandemic of fear, and discussed community's need to hear that the City is with them.

14. Lia, a doula with Golden Gate Parenting Solutions, noted that pregnant immigrants are not seeking prenatal care and survivors of domestic violence are not seeking help because they are afraid of ICE. She said people die when they don't seek care, and she called on the City to keep ICE out of hospitals, shelters and clinics.

15. Anjali Rimi of Parivar Bay Area asked if San Francisco was a sanctuary city for transgender immigrants, asked the IRC to hold a hearing on transgender immigrants, and asked Stand Together Bay Area to include transgender organizations. She also read a comment from Phanny Lun of Parivar Bay Area asking the IRC, OCEIA and the Office of Transgender Initiatives (OTI) to invest in transgender organizations and report on engagement with and funding for transgender communities.

16. Rev. Mary Loebig Giles described witnessing immigrants who were unable to communicate with their attorneys because they did not have an interpreter. She asked the City to avoid any cooperation with ICE and to create a No ICE Zone.

17. Annie Xing of the Asian American Alliance Against Racism noted that Mayor Ed Lee set aside funding for the Public Defender and called for the project to be recreated to support non-profit organizations.

18. Leah of the San Francisco chapter of Showing Up for Racial Justice expressed her support for her immigrant friends and neighbors and discussed the importance of upholding sanctuary laws, saying the Sheriff must refuse to turn over individuals to ICE, and the SFPD should not manage traffic or create perimeters for ICE.

19. Jennifer Wagner of the League of Women Voters discussed the need for oversight of law enforcement, asked for confirmation and documentation of their commitments, and called for Angela Chan's best practices in local law enforcement to be adopted.

20. Connie Mills of Indivisible SF noted that school attendance has decreased this year due to fears of ICE activity, and stated that taxpayer money should not be used to cooperate with ICE.

21. Elizabeth Boyarsky, an educator, expressed her concern for students and their families and said San Francisco should have a clear plan like Chicago does.

22. Erica Wang of Indivisible SF spoke in support of FREE SF and called for courage, allyship, and clear directives.
23. Michael Stenberg asked if the people had the power to arrest ICE agents who were in violation of laws, and asked about people's right to observe them.
24. Dr. Andrei Goga, a physician, recommended increasing the number of attorneys available to represent clients; using taxpayer money to hire attorneys; and using an integrated response application to let people know about ICE, similar to the app used in Illinois.
25. Yeison Jimenez of Calle 24, who spoke in his personal capacity, said that as a gay Colombian, it was important to maintain San Francisco as a mecca for queer immigrants.
26. Janet Potter said that the hearing has taught her that San Francisco is not doing enough and is not keeping pace with neighboring counties.
27. A Mission resident noted that fear is preventing students from eating. Rather than lack of cooperation, she said San Francisco should build an active defense.
28. Rosemary King, a member of SF Village, asked if the SFPD could stop ICE and ask for their identification and a warrant.
29. A resident of District 6 argued that the SFPD has not been neutral and has acted to quash protests. He played an audio clip that he said was the SFPD requesting back-up on behalf of ICE.
30. Tess Welborn, a resident of District 5 and a member of Indivisible, endorsed FREE SF's recommendations and called on San Francisco to work across counties.
31. A member of the public noted that immigrants are afraid to go to school and work, and expressed the need for continuous funding that is publicized so community members are aware of it. He suggested that the mayor go to businesses and show them how to defend private spaces from ICE. He called for San Francisco to strengthen its sanctuary policies as neighboring counties have done. He expressed support for the adoption of FREE SF's recommendations and ILRC's recommendations.

d. Closing Remarks

(Information)

This item is to allow Chair Souza, Commissioner Obregon, and Director Rivas to provide brief closing remarks on today's hearing.

Chair Souza, Commissioner Obregon and Director Rivas thanked invited speakers, community members, OCEIA staff and interpreters. Commissioner Obregon volunteered to take the lead in developing recommendations from the hearing, and Chair Souza said the item will be discussed at the Executive Committee meeting.

5. Proposed Resolution on Detention of Immigrants (Commissioner Obregon)

(Discussion/Action)

This item allows Commissioner Obregon to present her proposed resolution for discussion and possible action by the Commission.

Commissioner Obregon asked Commissioners for their input on her draft resolution. Commissioners suggested including recommendations from the special hearing in the resolution. Commissioner Obregon invited Commissioners to send their amendments to OCEIA staff so she can finalize the resolution within two weeks. Chair Souza recommended continuing the resolution. Chair Souza called for public comment and there was no comment on this item.

[IRC Draft Resolution Denouncing the Detention of Immigrants](#)

6. Adjournment

Chair Souza adjourned the meeting at 8:46 p.m.

