



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

September 8, 2025, at 5:30 pm PDT

Online: <https://sfpublish.webex.com/sfpublish/j.php?MTID=mddf04e93dcbe2f8339a2c3ebbdd252d0>

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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 5:44 p.m.

Present: Chair Souza, Commissioners Abdou, Aljiran, Fara, Kennelly, Ng, Obregon, Paz, Senghor.

Not present: Vice Chair Chaudhary (excused), Commissioners Ratanapakdee (excused), Ruiz (excused), Wang (excused).

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. Announcements (Director Rivas) (Information)

Community Resource Announcement

This item allows Director Rivas to provide a brief announcement on community resources.

Director Rivas made an announcement about the SF Immigrant Forum (sf.gov/immigrants), which helps immigrants, asylees, refugees and service providers connect to resources. Chair

Souza called for public comment on this item, and a member of the public thanked the Commission for being here.

4. 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 general public comment.

5. Welcoming Commissioner Aljiran

This item allows Director Rivas to welcome new Immigrant Rights Commissioner Hessah Aljiran and allows Commissioner Aljiran to briefly introduce herself.

Director Rivas and Chair Souza welcomed new Immigrant Rights Commissioner Hessah Aljiran, and Commissioner Aljiran thanked the Commission and made brief remarks. Chair Souza called for public comment, and there was no public comment on this item.

6. Action Item: Approval of previous minutes

(Discussion/Action)

Discussion and possible action to approve the minutes of the Immigrant Rights Commission's Full Commission meeting of August 11, 2025.

Commissioner Obregon motioned to approve the minutes of August 11, 2025, seconded by Commissioner Paz. Chair Souza called for public comment, and there was no public comment on this item. The minutes were approved by the nine Commissioners present.

[IRC meeting minutes – August 11, 2025](#)

7. Action/Discussion Items

a. Proposed Resolution on Affordable Housing (Chair Souza)

(Discussion/Action)

This item allows Chair Souza to present a proposed resolution on affordable housing. During its June 25, 2025 meeting, the Executive Committee made edits and approved a motion for Chair Souza to bring it to the Full Commission for a vote.

Chair Souza discussed her proposed resolution on affordable housing, and made a proposed

amendment. Commissioner Fara also made a friendly amendment. Commissioner Kennelly motioned to adopt the resolution with the amendments, seconded by Commissioner Fara. Commissioner Souza called for public comment, and a member of the public asked about the definition of affordable housing and noted the need for deeply affordable housing for poor people. The motion was approved by the nine Commissioners present. Chair Souza will finalize the resolution.

b. Proposed Statement on Student Visas (Vice Chair Chaudhary)

(Discussion/Action)

This item allows Vice Chair Chaudhary to present a proposed statement on international students in San Francisco and the termination of student visas. During its June 25, 2025 meeting, the Executive Committee made edits and approved a motion for Vice Chair Chaudhary to bring it to the Full Commission for a vote.

Chair Souza thanked Vice Chair Chaudhary for her proposed statement. Commissioners Fara, Ng and Paz made suggested amendments. Commissioner Obregon made a motion to move forward with the proposed amendments, seconded by Commissioner Kennelly. Chair Souza called for public comment, and a member of the public noted the importance of international students. The motion was approved by the nine Commissioners present. Chair Souza suggested that Vice Chair Chaudhary finalize the statement.

c. Follow-Up Actions on Commission Streamlining Task Force

(Discussion/Action)

This item allows Director Rivas to provide an update on the Commission Streamlining Task Force, allows the Commission to discuss how to encourage community members to share their input, and allows Chair Souza and Vice Chair Chaudhary to present a proposed letter to the Commission Streamlining Task Force about the importance of maintaining the Immigrant Rights Commission as an independent commission.

Director Rivas provided an update on the Commission Streamlining Task Force. Clerk Shore completed an extensive questionnaire about the Immigrant Rights Commission for the Task Force and OCEIA staff will meet with Task Force staff. Chair Souza presented the draft IRC letter and Commissioners Obregon and Paz made suggested edits. Commissioner Paz motioned to approve the letter as amended, seconded by Commissioner Kennelly. Chair Souza called for public comment and a member of the public discussed the importance of the Immigrant Rights Commission. The motion was approved by the nine Commissioners present.

[DRAFT IRC resolution on affordable housing](#)

[DRAFT IRC statement in support of international and immigrant students](#)

[DRAFT IRC Letter to Commission Streamlining Task Force](#)

8. Staff Reports

a. Director's Updates

This item allows Director Rivas to provide brief updates on activities and announcements.

Director Rivas provided updates on the upcoming San Francisco Pathways to Citizenship Workshop on September 13, and OCEIA's Citizenship Day press conference on September 17. Commissioners are invited to join and Chair Souza will be speaking on behalf of the Commission.

b. Reappointment hearing for Board-appointed Commissioners

This item allows Director Rivas to discuss Commissioners up for reappointment.

Director Rivas will notify Commissioners when the reappointment hearing has been scheduled.

c. Rescheduled October meeting and updates on upcoming meetings

This item is to allow Director Rivas to remind Commissioners about the rescheduled October meeting and provide updates on upcoming meetings. Due to the holiday, the October Full Commission meeting has been rescheduled to October 27, 2025.

Director Rivas provided an overview of the Commission's upcoming meetings, including the October 27 special hearing on immigration enforcement and local response in San Francisco.

9. 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 requested that the next Executive Committee meeting include an item on follow-up actions from the Commission's resolution condemning the travel ban. Commissioner Obregon introduced a resolution to the Executive Committee condemning the detention of immigrants at courthouses. Chair Souza called for public comment, and there was no comment on this item.

10. Adjournment

Chair Souza adjourned the meeting at 6:33 p.m.

