



# 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

March 9, 2026 at 5:30 pm PT

**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 5:42 p.m.

Present: Chair Souza, Commissioners Abdou, Aljiran (5:49 p.m.), Fara, How, Kennelly (6:13 p.m.)  
Ng, Obregon (6:04 p.m.), Padilla (5:46 p.m.) Paz, Ratanapakdee, Ruiz, Traore.

Not present: Vice Chair Chaudhary (excused), Commissioner Wang (excused).

OCEIA staff present: Director Rivas, Clerk Shore, Spanish Language Specialist Cosenza, Assistant Sarabia, Deputy Director Yen.

### **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)

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

asked for phone calls and emails urging Trinity Place to dismiss the eviction case.

Director Rivas provided an announcement about the San Francisco Immigrant Forum.

#### **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.

Chair Souza called for public comment.

1. A member of the public provided public comment on an attempted eviction from Trinity Place of a 42-year-old man from Russia while he is in federal Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) detention. He is being represented by the Eviction Defense Collaborative. The case calls into question whether individuals in immigration detention nationwide are being effectively denied due process in non-immigration matters, including civil housing and family court cases.

#### **5. 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 February 9, 2026.

[IRC Full Commission meeting minutes – February 9, 2026](#)

Commissioner How motioned to approve the minutes of February 9, 2026, seconded by Commissioner Ng. Chair Souza called for public comment and there was no comment on this matter. The minutes were approved.

#### **6. Discussion/Action Items**

a. Proposed Resolution Commendation of Richard Whipple (Commissioner Ng)

(Discussion/Action)

This item allows Commissioner Ng to present a proposed resolution commending Richard Whipple for his contributions to San Francisco's immigrant communities, and allows the Commission to discuss and take possible action. The draft resolution was edited and approved by the Executive Committee at its February 25 meeting to bring to the Full Commission for a vote.

Commissioner Ng presented his draft commendation of Richard Whipple. Commissioner How motioned to approve the resolution, seconded by Commissioner Paz. Chair Souza called for public comment.

1. A member of the public thanked Commissioners and noted that Richard Whipple is a blessing to everyone.

The motion passed and the resolution was approved.

b. Proposed Letter on Priorities of Immigrant Communities (Commissioner Ng)  
(Discussion/Action)

This item allows Commissioner Ng to present a proposed IRC letter to City leadership on the priorities and service needs of immigrant communities, and allows the Commission to discuss and take possible action. The draft letter was edited and approved by the Executive Committee at its February 25 meeting to bring to the Full Commission for a vote.

Commissioner Ng presented his draft letter on immigrant priorities. Commissioner Fara suggested an edit to the letter. Commissioner Padilla motioned to approve the letter as amended, seconded by Commissioner How. Chair Souza called for public comment and there was no comment on this item. The motion passed and the amended letter was approved.

Draft Resolution Commendation of Richard Whipple  
Draft Letter on Immigrant Needs

**7. Chair's Reports**

(Information)

IRC Awards Committee

This item allows IRC Awards Committee Co-Chairs Fara and Obregon to provide updates on the Awards Committee meeting and plans for 2026 Immigrant Leadership Awards on June 8, 2026. Chair Souza has appointed Vice Chair Chaudhary, Commissioner How and Commissioner Paz as members of the Awards Committee. However, all Commissioners are encouraged to submit nominations for the awards.

Awards Committee Co-Chairs Fara and Obregon and Director Rivas provided an overview of planning for the Immigrant Leadership Awards. All Commissioners are invited to submit nominations, invite community members to the event, and help connect OCEIA staff with food and beverage donations and possible performers and artwork to exhibit. Commissioners also help invite consulates to the awards event. Chair Souza provided updates from the Executive Committee, including follow-up actions from the annual strategic planning retreat.

**8. Staff Reports**

a. 2026 Immigrant Rights Commission Annual Report

(Information)

This item allows Director Rivas to present the 2026 IRC annual report, written by Senior Immigrant Affairs Advisor Elena Shore and designed by Senior Communications Specialist Jamie Richardson.

Director Rivas presented the 2026 Immigrant Rights Commission Annual Report.

b. Director's Updates

(Information)

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

Director Rivas provided updates and introduced OCEIA's new Deputy Director Aaron Yen, who provided brief remarks.

## **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.

### **New Business:**

Commissioner Aljiran proposed denouncing the war in West Asia and reaffirming immigrant rights and resources.

Commissioner Abdou suggested inviting MOHCD to speak about their stance on immigration status in cases related to housing and eviction.

Commissioner Ratanapakdee suggested informing people about H.R. 1's federal income tax deduction for restaurant tips.

### **Old Business:**

Commissioner Obregon noted that the Executive Committee is discussing how to follow up and engage with legislators on the recommendations from the IRC's October resolution.

Commissioner Fara asked how to continue to ask SFO for an immigration resource hub as a follow-up to the IRC's resolution condemning the travel ban.

Commissioner Paz thanked Clerk Shore for writing the IRC's annual report.

Chair Souza called for public comment on this item.

1. A member of the public expressed support for an immigrant hub at the airport.

## **10. Adjournment**

Chair Souza adjourned the meeting at 6:23 p.m.