



**Immigrant Rights Commission
Minutes of March 4, 1999**

The Immigrant Rights Commission meeting was held on Thursday, March 4, 1999, in the Board of Supervisors Hearing Room at City Hall, Room 416, 1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place in San Francisco.

- Members Present** Rene Saucedo, Marie Mallare, Samuel Assefa, Penelope Chronis, Renato Ecarma, Anita Friedman, Isabel Huie, Phillip Nguyen, Thou Ny, Richard Ow, Natividad Ramirez, Martin Schenker.
- Members Absent** Fidel Jimenez, Lee Sprague, Nam Thai.
- Others Present** John Young, Special Assistant to the Executive Director of DHS
Mario Kashou, Deputy City Attorney
Taylor Emerson, Mayor's Budget Office
Rand Quinn, Northern California Coalition for Immigrant Rights
Donia Fernandez, Employment Law Center
- Agenda** On motion by Richard Ow, seconded and carried, the Commission adopted the agenda as posted.
- Minutes** The minutes of the February 4, 1999 meeting were adopted.
- Bilingual Access** John Young presented a progress report on the draft legislation for ensuring full access to essential city services by the City's non-English speaking residents. The legislative working group initiated by the Immigrant Rights Commission currently includes the Human Rights Commission, the Employment Law Center, the Asian Law Caucus, La Raza Centro Legal, the Northern California Coalition for Immigrant Rights. The working group is being expanded to include community based service providers. Including these groups will enable the working group to better identify those city services for which gaps in bilingual service capacity would present the greatest threat to the rights, health and safety of the non-English speaking residents. Commission members prioritized developing bilingual access strategies with the Department of Public Health, Department of Human Services, the Rent Board, the Department of Building Inspection, and the Office of Citizen's Complaints. The Commissioners unanimously adopted a resolution calling on the Board of Supervisors to adopt as a minimum standard for the provision of essential City services the standards already applicable to State agencies. The resolution also called on the

- Board to direct the Immigrant Rights Commission in collaboration with the Human Rights Commission and community based organizations serving immigrants to conduct a needs assessment and develop appropriate legislation and implementation strategies for the provision of essential services to the City's non-English speaking populations for consideration by the Board of Supervisors. The resolution was adopted with the understanding that the IRC working group would continue to develop legislation and implementation strategies for bilingual access.
- Census** Commissioner Saucedo and John Young presented progress reports on the City's efforts to ensure a complete count of immigrant communities in the upcoming Year 2000 Census. A task force including the Mayor's Office, the Board of Supervisors, key city departments and community based groups has been convened by the Mayor and Supervisor Teng. The group held its first meeting on February 9th and is currently developing outreach plans for the City's effort to ensure a complete count. The next meeting of the Complete Count Committee will be held on March 9th at 11:00 am in Room 201 of City Hall. Commission members and staff will be attending the meeting.
- Budget** John Young reported on the ongoing budget discussions with the Mayor's Budget Office. The Budget Office will be renewing discussions with the Commission on its proposed budget.
- Mission Meeting** The Commission agreed to hold its April meeting (April 14th, 1999) in the Mission. Commissioner Saucedo will check on the availability of an accessible facility for the meeting.
- Following Meeting** The Commission agreed to have presentations on the continued impact of former Governor Wilson's Executive Order denying many state services to immigrants. Bilingual Access to services will also be included within the meeting agenda.
- Public Comment** Rand Quinn, from the Northern California Coalition for Immigrant Rights spoke on the importance of urging Governor Davis to rescind the Wilson Executive Order denying state services to immigrants.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:30 p.m.