



**Immigration Rights Commission  
Minutes of April 14, 1999**

The Immigrant Rights Commission meeting was held on Wednesday, April 7, 1999 at Centro Del Pueblo at 474 Valencia Street in San Francisco.

**Members Present** Renee Saucedo, Marie Mallare, Samuel Asseffa, Penelope Chronis, Richard Ow, Philip Nguyen, Renato Ecarma, Isabel Huie, Natividad Ramirez, Martin Schencker, Thou Ny, Fidel Jimenez, Nam Thai and Anita Friedman

**Members Absent** Lee Sprague

**Others Present** John Young, Special Assistant to the Executive Director of DHS  
Tonji Walker, Secretary

**Roll Call** Renee Saucedo called the meeting to order at 4:45 p.m. and thanking the public for their large attendance at this meeting.

**Agenda** On motion by Renee Saucedo, seconded and carried, the Commission adopted the agenda as posted.

**Public Comment** Supervisor Tom Ammiano addressed the Commission briefly and informed all that his door is open for any issues that are important to the Commission and thanked Supervisor Teng for initiating establishment of this Commission.

There was much public comment by private agencies and the general public at this particular meeting as there was a large turn out to this meeting. Many expressed appreciation, thanks and the great need for an Immigrant Rights Commission and their goals. Several speakers asked that Commission pursue the goal of making San Francisco an INS Raid Free Zone and spoke on concerns ranging from police violence, false imprisonment to elderly immigrant issues.

The Filipino community was present and asked the Commission to assist them regarding their efforts to reverse current INS policy. When a Filipino Americans files for a first preference Visa petition there is currently up to a 12 year wait to see their family. This is an enormously long delay for Filipino Americans to be reunited with their unmarried families and children from abroad.

Several youth from Community Educational Services returned to the Commission meeting and again expressed the urgent need for bilingual materials and staff throughout City agencies and the Private Industry.

- Minutes** The minutes of the April 14, 1999 meeting was adopted as presented.
- Language Access Ordinance** The Commission decided that this potential piece of legislation could not be voted on today. More work is needed on this piece to be certain that all immigrant concerns are addressed.
- Public Comment** There was no public comment.
- San Francisco as an INS Raid Free Zone** A motion was made to approve a resolution regarding INS enforcement and declaring San Francisco an INS Raid Free Zone. The Commission will work closely with Board of Supervisors to get this resolution introduced.
- Public Comment** There was no public comment.
- Census** The complete count committee is continuing to work and put together a plan to do outreach. There are 4 parts to this plan. 1) is government agencies that have contact with different groups to notify the public. 2) Work with the School District 3) Unified media strategy that will use mainstream media with print and electronic. 4) Ground strategy where individuals will go out to different neighborhoods and do a door to door census count.
- Public Comment** There was no public comment.
- Motions** On motion by Richard Ow seconded and carried the Commission agreed to change their standard meeting time from the first Thursday of the month 5 – 7pm to the first Wednesday 4:30-6:30pm.
- Adjourn** There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:00pm



# City and County of San Francisco Immigrant Rights Commission

## RESOLUTION OF THE SAN FRANCISCO IMMIGRANT RIGHTS COMMISSION

**Renee Saucedo**

Chairperson

**Marie Lorraine Mallare**

Vice Chairperson

**Commissioners:**

Samuel Assefa

Penelope Chronis

Renato Ecarma

Anita Friedman

Isabel Huie

Fidel Jimenez

Philip Nguyen

Thou Ny

Richard G. Ow

Natividad Ramirez

Martin S. Schenker

Lee A. Sprague

Nam Thai

***Executive Director:***

Dang T. Pham

Whereas, the Social Security Administration has sent to certain employers located in the city and county of San Francisco so called Ano match letters indicating that an employee's name and social security as reported by the employer do not match; and

Whereas, these letters have resulted in the intimidation of named employees attempting to assert their workplace rights and in the termination from employment of San Francisco workers, many of whom have been employed for many years; and

Whereas, the impact on these workers has been substantial both economically and psychologically; and

Whereas, these letters are purportedly advisory and meant to inform the workers and insure that their earnings are properly credited so that they will be entitled to collect Social Security monies at the appropriate time; and

Whereas, these letters do not mandate that the employers terminate the workers involved but only that the employers verify that they have reported accurate information, or advise the workers to contact Social Security; and

Whereas, these letters do not indicate that the named workers are undocumented or are otherwise precluded from continuing in their jobs; and

Whereas, there is no penalty for employers based on the Ano-match letters warranting a need to terminate workers named in these letters; and

Whereas, most discrepancies between social security and employer records are due to marriage, divorce, clerical errors or name changes; and

Whereas, many immigrants adopt English language names after coming to the United States; and

Whereas, English romanizations of non-English names may use several spellings of an individual's name; and

Whereas, the Social Security Administration is not an enforcement agency but rather a service agency charged with providing benefits to our nation's workforce;

Therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Mayor and Board of Supervisors are urged to demand that the Social Security Administration address all Ano match letters directly to the employee at the employee's residence or to the employee in care of the employer A marked personal & confidential to be opened only by the employee; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Mayor and Board of Supervisors are urged to demand that all Ano match letters include language informing employees of their rights under the law and under the 1986 Immigration Reform and Control Act.

July 1999



**Declaring San Francisco an "INS Raid Free Zone"**

**Whereas,** In 1996 Congress passed the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act (IIRIRA) which provides the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) more personnel and equipment resources for conducting enforcement activities; and

**Whereas,** The INS conducts raids at places of business and at people's homes, and conducts other forms of enforcement activities in San Francisco; and

**Whereas,** Raids are sometimes used by employers as a tactic to impede workplace and union organizing and to keep wages low; which impacts all workers, regardless of their immigration status; and

**Whereas,** Many immigrants living in San Francisco are forced to be separated from their family members and live in terror of being detained, questioned or arrested by the INS; and

**Whereas,** The INS often violates the civil rights of undocumented and legal residents during raids, arrests and detentions; and

**Whereas,** INS raids threaten the public safety of all San Franciscans, regardless of immigration status;

**Whereas,** San Francisco desires all its residents, regardless of immigration status, to live free from fear of being detained or arrested by the INS; and

**Whereas,** San Francisco values the contributions of all immigrants living in the city, regardless of their immigration status, and desires that they remain living in San Francisco;

**Therefore be it Resolved,** That the City and County of San Francisco declares itself an "INS Raid Free Zone". The Board of Supervisors and the Mayor of San Francisco request and urge the INS to cease conducting raids, arrests and detentions within the City and County of San Francisco; and

**Be it further Resolved,** That the Mayor of San Francisco contact the INS District Director will contact the INS District Director, Northern District, and will communicate the contents of this resolution.

**[As Unanimously Adopted at the Commission's April 14, 1999 meeting.]**