



# CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO IMMIGRANT RIGHTS COMMISSION

Edwin M. Lee, Mayor  
Naomi Kelly, City Administrator

September 17, 2015

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Haregu Gaime, Vice Chair  
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**Executive Director:**

Adrienne Pon  
Office of Civic Engagement  
& Immigrant Affairs

On this National Constitution and Citizenship Day, the San Francisco Immigrant Rights Commission recognizes the contributions of immigrants and the value of naturalization.

San Francisco is a city of immigrants with more than one third foreign-born, bringing new energy, initiative and creativity to the City. Immigrants have contributed to the City's social and economic diversity and dynamism. Immigrants play a critical role in shaping the City's unique neighborhoods, history, economy, culture and politics.

September 17<sup>th</sup> has been designated by Congress as Constitution Day and Citizenship Day in the United States, commemorating the signing of the U.S. Constitution on September 17, 1787, and recognizing all who have become American citizens. For the more than 102,000 Legal Permanent Residents who call San Francisco home, the transition to citizenship opens access to better economic and social opportunities, civic engagement, and opportunities to participate in meaningful ways and contribute back to the City's success.

The San Francisco Pathways to Citizenship Initiative is a unique public, private, nonprofit partnership to assist Legal Permanent Residents in their paths to citizenship. The seven nonprofit organizations implementing the Pathways Initiative are led by Self-Help for Elderly and its partners: Asian Pacific Islander Legal Outreach, Advancing Justice-Asian Law Caucus; Catholic Charities/CYO, International Institute of the Bay Area, Jewish Family and Services, and La Raza Community Resource Center.

Working in partnership the San Francisco Office of Civic Engagement & Immigrant Affairs, and supported by the City, five local foundations and two national organizations, the community partners have reached over one million Bay Area residents, assisted thousands of residents with their applications for citizenship, provided free legal and other assistance, and trained over 500 community volunteers over the past two years.

On National Citizenship Day, the San Francisco Immigrant Rights Commission applauds San Francisco's efforts to assist Legal Permanent Residents with a pathway to citizenship and commends the seven community service providers who are the heart of the San Francisco Pathways to Citizenship Initiative and thanks them for their leadership and service to San Francisco's immigrant communities.

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Celine Kennelly, Chair

Handwritten signature of Haregu Gaime in blue ink.

Haregu Gaime, Vice Chair