



**Immigrant Rights Commission
Minutes of January 7, 1999**

The Immigrant Rights Commission meeting was held on Thursday, January 7, 1999, in the Board of Supervisors Committee Chambers at 401 Van Ness Avenue, Room 410 in San Francisco.

- Members Present** Rene Saucedo, Marie Mallare, Samuel Assefa, Penelope Chronis, Renato Ecarma, Isabel Huie, Fidel Jimenez, Phillip Nguyen, Thou Ny, Richard Ow, Natividad Ramirez, Martin Schenker.
- Members Absent** Anita Friedman, Lee Sprague, Nam Thai.
- Others Present** John Young, Special Assistant to the Executive Director of DHS
Mario Kashou, Deputy City Attorney
Hoi Yung Poon, Bureau of the Census
Ted Wang, Chinese for Affirmative Action
- Agenda** On motion by Rene Saucedo, seconded and carried, the Commission adopted the agenda as posted.
- Minutes** The minutes of the December 3, 1998 meeting were adopted with technical corrections.
- Presentations** Hoi-Yung Poon from the Bureau of the Census and Ted Wang from Chinese for Affirmative Action discussed the importance of the upcoming decennial census and the annual "American Community Survey" to San Francisco and to San Francisco's immigrant communities. The speakers provided an overview of the importance of the census to local communities and the process for the upcoming census. Census data determines reapportionment, redistricting, federal revenue sharing and provides critical data collection for public and private planning. Census undercounts have a profound impact on the electoral power and resource allocation for undercounted communities. Immigrants, limited English proficient and people of color are among the groups historically undercounted in census.
- Committees** The Policy & Legislation Committee and the Immigrant Access and Participation, Welfare, and Citizenship Committees presented reports on their respective meetings. It was agreed that the Citizenship committee would now include welfare reform within the scope of its work and that the members of the current Welfare committee would focus their work on census issues.

- Budget** John Young reported on the ongoing budget discussions with the Mayor's Budget Office. The Budget Office has declined the Commission's preliminary request for funding. Commission members unanimously agreed to meet with members of the Board of Supervisors to pursue funding for the Commission's work.
- Rules** By general consensus the Commission agreed to Commissioner Saucedo's offer to develop proposed guidelines for rules governing conduct of commission meetings, attendance and committee participation for future discussion.
- Chinatown Meeting** The Commission agreed to hold its regular February meeting (Feb. 4, 1999) in Chinatown. Commissioner Isabel Huie will check on the availability of the Chinese For Affirmative Action Community Room at 17 Walter U. Lum Place for this meeting.
- Following Meeting** The Commission agreed to have presentations on the upcoming decennial census and issues regarding undercounting of immigrants and language minorities. The Commission will also consider adoption of a resolution calling for active collaboration by City government in efforts to ensure a complete count of all San Franciscans in the decennial and annual censuses.
- Public Comment** John Oei, addressed the Commission on human rights abuses against ethnic Chinese in Indonesia and on the need to assist individuals seeing political asylum from this persecution.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:00 p.m.