

OFFICE OF TRANSGENDER  
INITIATIVES



Friday, February 26, 2021

To: Rules Committee: Supervisors Peskin, Mandelman and Chan; Clerk Victor Young  
CC: Supervisors Stefani, Mar, Preston, Haney, Melgar, Ronen, Walton and Safai

Re: Letter of Support for Jessy Ruiz Navarro's Re-appointment to the San Francisco Immigrant Rights Commission

Dear Board of Supervisors,

I am writing to express my strong support for Jessy Ruiz Navarro's re-appointment to the San Francisco Immigrant Rights Commission (IRC).

Ms. Ruiz comes to this work as an advocate for immigrant and LGBTQ+ communities in San Francisco. Her commitment to uplifting and representing vulnerable communities is clear in the many ways she is engaged in community work. Ms. Ruiz has volunteered and been involved with organizations like *El/La Para TransLatinas* (the only organization in the Bay Area focused exclusively on trans Latinas), where she was crowned *Miss El/La* in 2018, an honor reserved for exceptional leaders in the local trans Latinx community. In addition to her volunteering, Ms. Ruiz also works as a direct service provider at Mission Neighborhood Resource Center, where she supports people experiencing homelessness in getting their basic needs met on a daily basis.

Ms. Ruiz is deeply committed to her own professional development in service of vulnerable San Franciscans. For example, Ms. Ruiz has been part of our EmergeSF professional development fellowship for two consecutive years. As part of last year's EmergeSF fellowship, Ms. Ruiz completed an internship with the City's SF Counts campaign responsible for ensuring a complete count of all residents during the 2020 Census. Ms. Ruiz did extensive outreach to many hard-to-count communities about the importance of completing the U.S. Census regardless of immigration status, housing status, and other demographics. She spoke passionately about the U.S. Census to everyone she encountered, ranging from large audiences at LGBTQ-focused community events to her peers in the ESL course at City College she was taking at the time.

This year, one of her goals in the EmergeSF fellowship is to improve her English so she can soon take credit courses at City College of San Francisco, with the hope of eventually becoming a certified Community Health Worker and substance use counselor. Despite not having access to schooling in her home country, Ms. Ruiz has been determined to take advantage of all educational and professional development opportunities available to her since her move to San Francisco in 2016. Her dedication to her own learning is fueled by her desire to make positive change for communities in need, in particular those that she is a part of as an immigrant and a trans Latina woman.

1800 MARKET ST. STE 100  
SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA 94102  
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In April 2019, Ms. Ruiz became the first trans Latina immigrant woman to serve on a City commission, and the first transgender person to serve on the IRC. Ms. Ruiz will continue to bring the breadth of her professional and lived experiences to this role and to give voice to immigrant communities in San Francisco. For these reasons, I ask that you re-appoint Jessy Ruiz Navarro to the Immigrant Rights Commission.

Thank you,

Clair Farley

Clair Farley  
Director, Office of Transgender Initiatives  
[Clair.Farley@sfgov.org](mailto:Clair.Farley@sfgov.org)

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Myriad Outreach Project // Meals on OneWheels

Good afternoon Supervisor Chan, Madelman, and Peskin

I am pleased to write a letter supporting Lucia Obregon's appointment to the Immigrant Rights Commission, seat no. 10. My name is Michael Rafael-Ehijo Sierra, Founder of Myriad Outreach Project and Meals on OneWheels. I've worked with Lucia on numerous community projects and find her to be an exceptional facilitator and leader. Our collective mutual aid efforts have fed over 5,600 people and helped secure valuable resources for those in need. I met Lucia during the planning stages of the Close the Camps and Day of the Dead events in the Mission, where she exhibited strong communication skills and the ability to adapt project timelines and milestones.

I consider Lucia to be a great candidate for this Commission because she has continually shown to be a selfless leader and mentor to our community. Lucia has guided our staff and volunteer cohorts through countless professional development hours and offered insight that has helped us reach more people and acquire more resources. Fundraising and outreach wise she has helped us secure thousands of dollars in donations and resources for our monthly homeless outreach events. I have full faith that she will continue to lead by example in all her endeavors and advocate for all San Francisco members regardless of status. In closing, Lucia is an ideal candidate for this position, and I hope you seriously consider her appointment. Thank you.

Warmly,

Michael Rafael Ehijo-Sierra

Founder and President

[MyriadOutreachProject@gmail.com](mailto:MyriadOutreachProject@gmail.com) // [MealsOnOneWheels@gmail.com](mailto:MealsOnOneWheels@gmail.com)



## Direct Action For Farmworkers

Dear Supervisor's Chan, Madelman, and Peskin,

My name is Kimberly Gomez, I am a DACA recipient and I started my mutual aid group Direct Action For Farmworkers. I am in support of Lucia Obregon's appointment to the Immigrant Rights Commission, seat no. 10. I've had the pleasure of knowing Lucia since the pandemic started last year. I met Lucia during Close The Camps March in SF and during that experience, we connected and she has been a huge supporter of Direct Action for Farmworkers. We distribute resources to our farmworkers in California who have been impacted by the wildfires and pandemic and who are mixed-status families. Lucia has gone above and beyond for our farmworking community by fundraising thousands of dollars and driving back and forth from Turlock to drop off donations to our efforts. She has used her platform by helping us with fundraisers and raffles. I have full trust in Lucia because she is always advocating for immigration rights and basic Human Rights for the undocumented community. Lucia would be an excellent Commissioner because she is very knowledgeable she's already doing frontline work and uplifting our undocumented community by using her voice, her networks, her free time, and her love for the community.

It is my greatest honor to show her support and I hope you seriously consider her appointment.

Thank you.

Kimberly Gomez  
Founder and President  
[Directactionforfarmworkers@gmail.com](mailto:Directactionforfarmworkers@gmail.com)