



**CITY OF TACOMA, WASHINGTON  
OFFICE OF THE CITY COUNCIL  
COUNCIL CONSIDERATION REQUEST**

**TO:** Mayor & City Council  
**FROM:** Council Member Catherine Ushka and Council Policy Analyst Lynda Foster  
**COPIES TO:** Elizabeth Pauli, City Manager; Kurtis Kingsolver, Deputy City Manager; Bill Fosbre, City Attorney  
**SUBJECT:** **Resolution – Funding for Participation in the Welcoming Interactive – February 21, 2023**  
**DATE:** February 15, 2023

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**I ask for your support for a Council Contingency Fund expenditure for \$4,800 to fund two Commission on Immigrant and Refugee Affairs’ Members and a Council Member Participation in the 2023 Welcoming Interactive Conference.**

**LEGISLATIVE INTENT:**

**Council Contingency Fund Request:**

The Office of Equity and Human Rights staff will be in attendance at the Welcoming Interactive taking place on April 26th-28th in San Jose, California. The Welcoming Interactive is an annual in-person conference that takes place with Welcoming America. The Welcoming Interactive is typically held on the East coast and for the first time, they will offer this conference on the West coast.

In 2022, the Director of the Office of Equity and Human Rights, as well as the staff liaison for the Commission on Immigrant and Refugee Affairs attended the Welcoming Interactive to broaden the understanding of how to better align the City of Tacoma’s immigrant and refugee inclusion efforts with cities and initiatives from around the country.

The commission has identified areas of opportunities for the Council to consider that will help CIRA better serve as a liaison between the community and the city and support innovative welcoming and belonging strategies by sending two commissioners and one Council Member to the annual conference. The objective is to learn from other municipalities and community groups about strategies that will help create a more inclusive community. The intention to send staff, commissioners, and a Council Member is to dedicate that time to focus on immigrants and refugees in a place where it is the primary and centric focal point. At the Welcoming Interactive, staff, commissioners, and one Council Member will be asked to convene daily to discuss learnings and chart potential next steps including the idea of developing a Welcoming Plan and ways to elevate Welcoming Week celebration and events. This funding would cover costs associated with flight, hotel, registration, per diem, ground transportation, and any miscellaneous fees.

**FUNDING REQUESTED:**  
\$ 4,800

DESIRED RESOLUTION DATE: February 28, 2023

**COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT/ (CUSTOMER RESEARCH):**

This request was brought to the Community, Vitality and Safety Committee by the Commission of Immigrant and Refugee Affairs.

**2025 STRATEGIC PRIORITIES:**

**Equity and Accessibility:**

The Commission of Immigrant and Refugee Affairs (CIRA) is a dynamic commission and is active in various ways. The formation resolution 39892 for CIRA is expansive and intended to offer the commission the latitude to recommend paths forward. With the increase of refugees from Ukraine and Afghanistan in Tacoma, presently we see a growing need to address complex issues related to capacity, asset mapping, resource allocation, and funding to better support new Tacomans.

**Civic Engagement: Equity Index Score:** Select an Index Score.

Increase the number of residents who participate civically through volunteering and voting. Elected officials, boards, commissions, and volunteer leadership will reflect the diversity of the Tacoma community.

Increase the percentage of residents who believe they are able to have a positive impact on the community and express trust in the public institutions in Tacoma.

Representation at public meetings will reflect the diversity of the Tacoma community

**Livability: Equity Index Score:** Select Index Score.

Increase positive public perception of safety and overall quality of life.

Explain how your legislation will affect the selected indicator(s)?

Providing funds for Commission on Immigrant and Refugee Affairs members to attend this educational opportunity is an investment in our community leaders, who will share their learnings broadly and strengthen the programming offered by the City to serve immigrants and refugees.

**ALTERNATIVES:**

| Alternative  | Positive Impacts   | Negative Impacts   |
|--|--|--|
| 1. CIRA members could not attend the conference, and a Council Member could use alternative funding for travel.                | Preserve funding for other community priorities.   | CIRA members do not access valuable learnings to advance welcoming week programming, Council Members would not have dedicated funding to attend. |
| 2. Funding for CIRA members to attend the conference could be partially or wholly reallocated from Welcoming Week programming. | Preserve contingency funds for other community priorities.   | Would reduce funding for welcoming week programs, limiting impact of welcoming week.   |
| 3. More funding could be provided to further advance attendance to this conference.  | Maximize learning for CIRA members, who will share that learning with the immigrant and refugee communities. | Does not preserve contingency funds for other priorities, was not requested by CIRA members.   |

**EVALUATIONS AND FOLLOW UP:**

Commission on Immigrant and Refugee Affairs (CIRA) members who attend the conference should report their learnings back to the CIRA body and use their learnings to advance programming offered during the City of Tacoma’s Welcoming Week.

**SPONSOR RECOMMENDATION:**

Sponsors recommend funding participation for two Commission on Immigrant and Refugee Affairs members and one Council Member to travel to and participate in the Welcoming Interactive annual in-person conference that takes place with Welcoming America.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

\$4,800 from Council Contingency to cover costs associated with flight, hotel, registration, per diem, ground transportation, and any miscellaneous fees for two Commission on Immigrant and Refugee Affairs’ members and one Council Member to attend the conference.

**If you have a question related to the Council Contingency Fund Request, please contact Lynda Foster at 253.591.5166 or Lynda.Foster@CityofTacoma.org.**

**SUBMITTED FOR COUNCIL CONSIDERATION BY:**   
Council Member Catherine Ushka

**SUPPORTING COUNCIL MEMBERS SIGNATURES (2 SIGNATURES ONLY)**

(Signatures demonstrate support to initiate discussion and consideration of the subject matter by City Council for potential policy development and staff guidance/direction.)

1.  POS#     2

## 2023 Council Contingency Commitments

|                  |           |                   |
|------------------|-----------|-------------------|
| <b>2023-2024</b> | <b>\$</b> | <b>225,000.00</b> |
|------------------|-----------|-------------------|

### To Study Session February 28, 2023

|   |           |                  |
|---|-----------|------------------|
| <b>Council Requested - South Sound Together</b> | <b>\$</b> | <b>12,000.00</b> |
|---|-----------|------------------|

Council Contingency Fund expenditure for \$12,000 to fund the City of Tacoma Membership / Sponsorship on the South Sound Together 2023 Board.

### To Study Session February 28, 2023

|   |           |                 |
|---|-----------|-----------------|
| <b>Council Requested - Welcoming Interactive Conference Participation Sponsorship</b> | <b>\$</b> | <b>4,800.00</b> |
|---|-----------|-----------------|

Council Contingency Fund expenditure for \$4,800 to fund two Commission on Immigrant and Refugee Affairs' Members and a Council Member Participation in the 2023 Welcoming Interactive Conference

|                               |           |                   |
|-------------------------------|-----------|-------------------|
| <b>Starting Balance</b>       | <b>\$</b> | <b>225,000.00</b> |
| <b>Total Amount Allocated</b> | <b>\$</b> | <b>16,800.00</b>  |
| <b>Current Balance</b>        | <b>\$</b> | <b>208,200.00</b> |