



**TO:** T.C. Broadnax, City Manager  
**FROM:** Diane Powers, Director, Office of Equity and Human Rights *DP*  
**COPY:** City Council and City Clerk  
**SUBJECT:** Resolution- Welcoming Cities and Counties Initiative – February 17, 2015  
**DATE:** February 2, 2015

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**SUMMARY:**

This resolution authorizes the City of Tacoma to join the Welcoming Cities and Counties Initiative, which encourages communities across the United States to create more welcoming, immigrant friendly environments that maximize opportunities for economic growth and cultural vitality.

**COUNCIL SPONSORS:**

Councilmember Marty Campbell  
Mayor Marilyn Strickland  
Councilmember Ryan Mello

**STRATEGIC POLICY PRIORITY:**

Membership in the Welcoming Cities and Counties Initiative aligns with the following strategic priorities:

- Foster neighborhood, community, and economic development vitality and sustainability.
- Encourage and promote an open, effective, results-oriented organization

**BACKGROUND:**

At the 2014 City Council Annual Work Session, the City Council selected involvement in the Welcoming Cities and Counties Initiative as one of its top five policy priorities for the year.

**ISSUE:**

Recent United States Census figures report that 13.4 percent of Tacoma's population is foreign born and 19 percent of our residents speak a language other than English in their homes. The majority of our foreign born populations have immigrated from Asia (45 percent), Latin America (28 percent) and Europe (21 percent).

Membership in this initiative will bring Tacoma into a network of over 40 other cities that are actively working towards creating more welcoming, immigrant-friendly environments in their cities. Furthermore, the City of Tacoma believes it has a vested interest in building immigrant leadership, engagement and inclusion and wants to encourage immigrant entrepreneurship. Inclusivity of immigrant and foreign-born people also aligns with the mission of the City's Equity and Empowerment Initiative.

**ALTERNATIVES:**

The City Council could choose not to join the Welcoming Cities and Counties Initiative at this time.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Staff recommends that the City Council votes to approve the City of Tacoma's membership in the Welcoming Cities and Counties Initiative.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

There is no fiscal impact.