



TO: T.C. Broadnax, City Manager
FROM: Anita Gallagher, Management Analyst-II, City Manager’s Office
COPY: City Council and City Clerk
SUBJECT: Resolution – Mayor’s Commission on International Relations
DATE: September 30, 2014

SUMMARY:

Mayor Marilyn Strickland proposes a Resolution establishing the Mayor’s Commission on International Relations to foster positive international relations for education, the arts, tourism, and economic development.

COUNCIL SPONSORS:

Mayor Marilyn Strickland

STRATEGIC POLICY PRIORITY:

The requested Resolution aligns with the City Council’s Strategic Policy Priority to **Foster Neighborhood, Community, and Economic Development Vitality and Sustainability.**

BACKGROUND:

Earlier this year, Mayor Strickland joined with her fellow Mayors in Seattle and Everett to launch a pilot project sponsored by the Brookings Institution and JP Morgan Chase called the Global Cities Initiative. This project will examine the market for foreign direct investment in the Seattle metropolitan area, of which Tacoma is a component, and develop a plan for strategic pursuit of foreign direct investment. There are many organizations and businesses in Tacoma that have a stake in fostering positive international relations for education, the arts, tourism, and economic development. It is the Mayor’s intention to establish a Commission comprised of representatives of these organizations to develop a unified agenda and strategy for Tacoma. She will appoint these individuals.

ISSUE:

Washington State ranks 31st in the United States for attracting foreign direct investment, and the greater Seattle metropolitan area does not attract as much foreign direct investment as comparable metropolitan areas. There is much work being done in Tacoma to market our assets and attract visitors and investment from a wider pool, but the organizations and businesses doing this work would benefit from mutual collaboration and partnership.

ALTERNATIVES:

The Council could choose to not support the requested Resolution.

RECOMMENDATION:

The recommendation is that the Council approve the Resolution establishing the Mayor’s Commission on International Relations.

FISCAL IMPACT:

There is no fiscal impact.