



City of Tacoma

City Council Action Memorandum

TO: Hyun Kim, Interim City Manager
FROM: Council Member Sandesh Sadalge and Senior Council Policy Analyst Lynda Foster
COPY: City Clerk and City Council
SUBJECT: **Resolution – Immigration resources website and outreach – January 13, 2026**
DATE: **January 13, 2026**

SUMMARY AND PURPOSE:

A resolution directing the City Manager to create a webpage to share resources for immigrants, community members, and businesses related to immigration issues impacting residents of Tacoma. The website should include background on City Council legislation in support of Tacoma’s immigrant and refugee community, and the City’s advocacy to restrict the use of for-profit detention centers. The resolution further directs the City Manager to create outreach materials and share this information with affected community members.

[Council Member Sadalge]

COUNCIL SPONSORS:

Council Members Diaz, Palmer and Sadalge

BACKGROUND:

This Department’s Recommendation is Based On:

When the government arrests or tries to arrest someone, or when a government official or police officer "just wants to talk," every person in the United States has certain basic rights. These rights apply to everyone, regardless of citizenship. Businesses also have legal rights to restrict enforcement officers from entering a private space without a judicial warrant or an employer’s permission. It is important that residents of Tacoma be familiar with their rights, be encouraged to assert their rights, and help protect others by informing them of their rights.

Over the last year, this federal administration has continued to promote actions and policies that sow fear and anxiety in our communities. This City Council is deeply alarmed by reports documenting the collateral damage of these operations, including tragic accounts of individuals who have died while in federal custody. Independent media investigations, including recent data published by ProPublica, indicate that these tactics have resulted in the wrongful detainment and mistreatment of over 170 U.S. citizens. Combined with reports of deaths in ICE custody, this statistic underscores a chaotic approach to enforcement that endangers everyone, regardless of status.

The City of Tacoma has a proud history of inclusivity, tolerance, and compassion for all residents. The diversity of our people and cultures is a critical part of who we are as a City. Everyone has the right to live peacefully and without fear, and we condemn the persecution of many others around the world who face extreme barriers and inequitable treatment on account of their race, ethnicity, education level, economic status, gender, immigration status, sexual orientation, skin color, religion, political opinion, and other identities.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT/ CUSTOMER RESEARCH:

In 2025, while developing Resolution 41627, sponsors met with a broad range of stakeholders to discuss and request feedback on this policy and topics of importance to the immigration and refugee community, including the Commission for Immigrant and Refugee Affairs, the Tacoma Healing Awareness Committee, the Tacoma Refugee Choir, One America, Advocates for Immigrants in Detention Northwest (AIDNW), Golden Bamboo Walking Group, the Eastside Neighborhood Advisory Council of Tacoma, the South End Neighborhood Council, and other local elected leaders. The shooting of Ms. Good is just the latest consequence of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) enforcement tactics and has spurred requests for additional action from the City Council.



2025 STRATEGIC PRIORITIES:

Equity and Accessibility: (Mandatory)

Approximately 7% of the US population, or 22.8 million people, are non-citizens. In 2017, nearly 260,000 people sought asylum, or protection from persecution, within the United States. As of 2022, over 12 percent of Tacoma’s population was born outside the United States, and nearly 20 percent speak a language other than English at home. Today, immigrant communities are under threat of mass deportations. Anyone without secure immigration status may be subject to enforcement efforts. People who were ordered deported in the past and people who have had contact with the criminal legal system are at particular risk. These immigrant populations experience unique risks to health, including pre-migratory trauma, unsafe and stressful migration experiences, and post-migration discrimination. Human rights abuses can occur across this spectrum of the immigrant experience. In addition, these health behaviors and outcomes ripple throughout the communities to which immigrants belong.

Economy/Workforce: *Equity Index Score:* Moderate Opportunity
Increase positive public perception related to the Tacoma economy.

Education: *Equity Index Score:* Moderate Opportunity
All students will graduate from high school and be prepared to enter the workforce or pursue post-secondary education.

Civic Engagement: *Equity Index Score:* Moderate Opportunity
Increase the number of residents who participate civically through volunteering and voting.
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:* Moderate Opportunity
Improve access and proximity by residents to diverse income levels and race/ethnicity to community facilities, services, infrastructure, and employment.
Improve health outcomes and reduce disparities, in alignment with the community health needs assessment and CHIP, for all Tacoma residents

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

Tacoma is a welcoming City that affirms the fundamental dignity of immigrants and refugees, commits to building welcoming communities, and brings together community members in a spirit of solidarity. The inclusivity of our immigrant and refugee community members aligns with the City's Equity and Empowerment framework, which strives to give everyone equitable access to the opportunities necessary to assert their human rights, satisfy their essential needs, advance their well-being, and achieve their full potential.

ALTERNATIVES:

Alternative(s)	Positive Impact(s)	Negative Impact(s)
1. Take no action	Maintains more positive relationship with federal government	Is not responsive to the Tacoma Community, does not educate individuals on their rights
2. Allocate funding to further enhance public education	Reaches broader population and expands education	Would take funding away from other Council priorities



EVALUATION AND FOLLOW UP:

The City Manager should create the website prior to February 10. The City Manager should update the City Council when the webpage is created. The City Manager should share how information was disseminated to community members, and feedback from community on the outreach materials.

SPONSOR RECOMMENDATION:

Clearly state your recommendation and explain how your recommendation addresses the issue. Include next steps if appropriate. If you have a recommended effective date, enter here.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Immediate costs to implement this policy can be incorporated into ongoing process and program work. There is an indeterminate ongoing cost that will need to be evaluated over time.

Fund Number & Name	COST OBJECT (CC/WBS/ORDER)	Cost Element	Total Amount
1. N/A			
2.			
TOTAL			

What Funding is being used to support the expense?

Are the expenditures and revenues planned and budgeted in this biennium’s current budget?

NO, PLEASE EXPLAIN BELOW

Immediate costs to implement this policy can be incorporated into ongoing process and program work. There is an indeterminate ongoing cost that will need to be evaluated over time.

Are there financial costs or other impacts of not implementing the legislation?

No

Will the legislation have an ongoing/recurring fiscal impact?

There is an indeterminate ongoing cost that will need to be evaluated over time.

Will the legislation change the City’s FTE/personnel counts?

No

ATTACHMENTS:

N/A