



TO: Elizabeth Pauli, City Manager
FROM: Mary Morrison on behalf of Diane Powers, Director, Office of Equity and Human Rights, City Manager’s Office
COPY: City Council and City Clerk
SUBJECT: Resolution Creating a Commission on Immigrant and Refugee Affairs – December 12, 2017
DATE: December 1, 2017

SUMMARY:

Resolution Creating a Commission on Immigrant and Refugee Affairs for the purpose of advising on policy recommendations, advocating on behalf of the communities and removing barriers between Tacoma and the communities.

COUNCIL SPONSORS:

Council Member Marty Campbell

STRATEGIC POLICY PRIORITY:

Creating a Commission to advocate on behalf of immigrants and refugees and to celebrate their diverse cultures and contributions to Tacoma best aligns with the City Council Strategic Policy Priorities to:

- Ensure all Tacoma residents are valued and have access to resources to meet their needs; and,
- Cultivate a vibrant cultural sector that fosters a creative, cohesive community.

BACKGROUND:

On January 31, 2017, the City Council adopted Resolution No. 39642 establishing a convening of immigrants and refugees and their advocates and supporting them in creating an Immigrant and Refugee Task Force to further the City’s vision as an inclusive and equitable city. This Task Force is made up of residents and community partners committed to finding ways to best support immigrants and refugees in Tacoma. At the August 8th Study Session, the Task Force provided an update on their convening and shared their recommendations to the City Council and City staff. One recommendation presented was the creation of a Commission for Immigrant and Refugee Affairs. At the request of Council Member Campbell at the special meeting of the Community, Vitality, and Safety Committee on November 29th, the Committee discussed the proposed resolution to create an Immigrant and Refugee Affairs Commission.

ISSUE:

Creation of a new commission requires deliberate determination of the scope of duties, authorization of the new commission and reconciliation with the existing authority of the Human Rights Commission. This new commission’s charge will be very similar to the Task Force’s charge and vision.

ALTERNATIVES:

At the November 9th Community Vitality and Safety (CVS) Committee meeting, staff shared three options:

- 1) Creating a Commission to advise on policy recommendations and advocate on behalf of immigrant and refugee communities;
- 2) Having the Human Rights Commission study, investigate and mediate community issues that may result from discrimination based on National origin/ancestry; and,
- 3) Continuing the Immigrant and Refugee Task Force to identify issues and challenges faced by immigrant and refugee communities.



There was a consensus of the CVS Committee for the first option to create a commission, so no other alternatives are being considered at this time.

RECOMMENDATION:

The CVS Committee is recommending that the resolution be adopted to create a Commission on Immigrant and Refugee Affairs for the purpose of advising on policy recommendations, advocating on behalf of the communities and removing barriers between Tacoma and the communities.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The creation of a Commission on Immigrant and Refugee Affairs will cost approximately \$20,000 to support. The cost includes translation/interpretation services (\$20,000). Due to diversity of the languages spoken by these individuals, translation and interpretation services are required for adequate communication and dialogue.



EXPENDITURES:

FUND NUMBER & FUND NAME *	COST OBJECT (CC/WBS/ORDER)	COST ELEMENT	TOTAL AMOUNT
5800 General Government Internal Services	598202	5310100	\$20,000
TOTAL			

* General Fund: Include Department

REVENUES:

FUNDING SOURCE	COST OBJECT (CC/WBS/ORDER)	COST ELEMENT	TOTAL AMOUNT
5800 General Government Internal Services	598202	6311010	\$20,000
TOTAL			

POTENTIAL POSITION IMPACT:

POSITION TITLE	PERMANENT/ PROJECT TEMPORARY POSITION	FTE IMPACT	POSITION END DATE
TOTAL			

This section should only be completed if a subsequent request will be made to increase or decrease the current position count.

FISCAL IMPACT TO CURRENT BIENNIAL BUDGET: \$20,000 (FY 2018)

ARE THE EXPENDITURES AND REVENUES PLANNED AND BUDGETED? There is a mid-biennial budget modification request to cover the \$20,000 for interpreter and translation services.

IF EXPENSE IS NOT BUDGETED, PLEASE EXPLAIN HOW THEY ARE TO BE COVERED.

See explanation above.