



**TO:** T.C. Broadnax, City Manager  
**FROM:** Diane Powers, Director, Office of Equity and Human Rights  
**COPY:** City Council and City Clerk  
**SUBJECT:** Resolution – Accepting the July 2016 Final Report from the Latino Town Hall Task Force – July 26, 2016  
**DATE:** July 19, 2016

**SUMMARY:**

A resolution accepting the July 2016 Final Report from the Latino Town Hall Task Force, and directing the City Manager to work with staff to identify opportunities for collaboration, education, greater representation and enhanced community engagement to ensure Latino residents are valued and have access to resources to meet their needs.

**COUNCIL SPONSORS:**

Council Member Marty Campbell

**STRATEGIC POLICY PRIORITY:**

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

**BACKGROUND:**

The City of Tacoma joined the Welcoming Cities Initiative in 2014, which is a national network of over 40 localities that actively work to create more welcoming, immigrant friendly environments in our cities that maximize opportunities for economic growth and cultural vitality. Tacoma’s membership in the Welcoming Cities Initiative, combined with the City’s Equity and Empowerment framework, has created a pathway for us to directly address the specific challenges that our foreign born residents experience.

At the February 16, 2016 Study Session, Council Member Campbell, supported by Mayor Strickland and Council Member Blocker, shared a City Council Consideration Request (CCR) to use up to \$10,000 of the City Council’s Contingency Fund to pay for the facilitation and expenses related to two Latino Roundtable Community Convenings.

With the support of the City Council through Resolution No. 39391, there were two town halls held in March and May of this year that gave City employees and other service providers the opportunity to hear from our Latino residents about barriers they are encountering in their everyday life and how we can better engage with and provide greater service to them, as well as what their vision is for their community going forward. Data in the form of survey results and notes from the breakout discussion groups collected at the Town Hall meetings were compiled into a report that was presented at the City Council Study Session on July 12, 2016.

**ISSUE:**

The Latino Town Halls revealed many of the important concerns Latino residents have, namely the lack of culturally appropriate resources and cultural awareness among the residents of Tacoma with regard to the Latino community, the impacts of federal immigration policies, concern for the environment and stewardship of natural resources, lack of educational opportunities for Latino youth, and the safety and security of the Latino community in Tacoma. By accepting the Report, the City Council can direct the City Manager to work with staff to identify opportunities for greater collaboration with the Latino community and to remove barriers for their active participation and engagement with City government.



**ALTERNATIVES:**

The City Council could choose to reject the resolution and not accept the Report.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Staff recommends that the City Council adopt this resolution to accept the Latino Town Hall Task Force Report.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

There is no fiscal impact in accepting the Report.