



TO: Elizabeth Pauli, City Manager
FROM: Council Member Catherine Ushka
COPY: City Council and Clerk
SUBJECT: Resolution – Funding for Participation in the Welcoming Interactive – March 7, 2023
DATE: March 1, 2023

SUMMARY AND PURPOSE:

A resolution authorizing a Council Contingency Fund expenditure of \$4,800 to fund two Commission on Immigrant and Refugee Affairs’ Members and a Council Member Participation in the 2023 Welcoming Interactive Conference.
[Council Member Ushka]

COUNCIL SPONSORS:

Council Members Blocker and Ushka

BACKGROUND:

The Council Member’s Recommendation is Based On:

The Office of Equity and Human Rights staff will be in attendance at the Welcoming Interactive taking place on April 26th-28th in San Jose, California. The Welcoming Interactive is an annual in-person conference that takes place with Welcoming America. The Welcoming Interactive is typically held on the East coast and for the first time, they will offer this conference on the West coast.

In 2022, the Director of the Office of Equity and Human Rights, as well as the staff liaison for the Commission on Immigrant and Refugee Affairs attended the Welcoming Interactive to broaden the understanding of how to better align the City of Tacoma’s immigrant and refugee inclusion efforts with cities and initiatives from around the country.

The commission has identified areas of opportunities for the Council to consider that will help CIRA better serve as a liaison between the community and the city and support innovative welcoming and belonging strategies by sending two commissioners and one Council Member to the annual conference. The objective is to learn from other municipalities and community groups about strategies that will help create a more inclusive community. The intention to send staff, commissioners, and a Council Member is to dedicate that time to focus on immigrants and refugees in a place where it is the primary and centric focal point. At the Welcoming Interactive, staff, commissioners, and one Council Member will be asked to convene daily to discuss learnings and chart potential next steps including the idea of developing a Welcoming Plan and ways to elevate Welcoming Week celebration and events. This funding would cover costs associated with flight, hotel, registration, per diem, ground transportation, and any miscellaneous fees.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT/ CUSTOMER RESEARCH:

This request was brought to the Community, Vitality and Safety Committee by the Commission on Immigrant and Refugee Affairs.

2025 STRATEGIC PRIORITIES:

Equity and Accessibility: (Mandatory)

The Commission on Immigrant and Refugee Affairs (CIRA) is a dynamic commission and is active in various ways. The formation resolution 39892 for CIRA is expansive and intended to offer the commission the latitude to recommend paths forward. With the increase of refugees from Ukraine and Afghanistan in Tacoma, presently we see a growing need to address complex issues related to capacity, asset mapping, resource allocation, and funding to better support new Tacomans.



Civic Engagement: Equity Index Score: Moderate Opportunity

Increase the number of residents who participate civically through volunteering and voting.
Elected officials, boards, commissions, and volunteer leadership will reflect the diversity of the Tacoma community.
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

Increase positive public perception of safety and overall quality of life.

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

Providing funds for Commission on Immigrant and Refugee Affairs members to attend this educational opportunity is an investment in our community leaders, who will share their learnings broadly and strengthen the programming offered by the City to serve immigrants and refugees.

ALTERNATIVES:

Alternative	Positive Impacts	Negative Impacts
1. CIRA members could not attend the conference, and a Council Member could use alternative funding for travel.	Preserve funding for other community priorities.	CIRA members do not access valuable learnings to advance welcoming week programming, Council Members would not have dedicated funding to attend.
2. Funding for CIRA members to attend the conference could be partially or wholly reallocated from Welcoming Week programming.	Preserve contingency funds for other community priorities.	Would reduce funding for welcoming week programs, limiting impact of welcoming week.
3. More funding could be provided to further advance attendance to this conference.	Maximize learning for CIRA members, who will share that learning with the immigrant and refugee communities.	Does not preserve contingency funds for other priorities, was not requested by CIRA members.

EVALUATION AND FOLLOW UP:

Commission on Immigrant and Refugee Affairs (CIRA) members who attend the conference should report their learnings back to the CIRA body and use their learnings to advance programming offered during the City of Tacoma’s Welcoming Week.

SPONSOR RECOMMENDATION:

Sponsors recommend funding participation for two Commission on Immigrant and Refugee Affairs members and one Council Member to travel to and participate in the Welcoming Interactive annual in-person conference that takes place with Welcoming America.



FISCAL IMPACT:

Fund Number & Name	COST OBJECT (CC/WBS/ORDER)	Cost Element	Total Amount
1. 1030- Council Contingency Fund	660000		\$4,800
TOTAL			\$4,800

What Funding is being used to support the expense?

COUNCIL CONTINGENCY FUND

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

NO, PLEASE EXPLAIN BELOW

The Council Contingency Fund provides an established amount of funding each year for unbudgeted Council sponsored initiatives.

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

YES. IF COUNCIL CONTINGENCY FUND IS NOT USED FOR THIS EXPENSE, FUNDING MAY BE TAKEN FROM THE BUDGET USED TO PLAN AND IMPLEMENT WELCOMING WEEK ACTIVITIES.

Will the legislation have an ongoing/recurring fiscal impact?

No

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

No

ATTACHMENTS:

- Resolution

2023 Council Contingency Commitments

2023-2024	\$	225,000.00
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To Council March 7, 2023

Council Requested - South Sound Together	\$	12,000.00
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Council Contingency Fund expenditure for \$12,000 to fund the City of Tacoma Membership / Sponsorship on the South Sound Together 2023 Board.

To Council March 7, 2023

Council Requested - Welcoming Interactive Conference Participation Sponsorship	\$	4,800.00
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Council Contingency Fund expenditure for \$4,800 to fund two Commission on Immigrant and Refugee Affairs' Members and a Council Member Participation in the 2023 Welcoming Interactive Conference

Starting Balance	\$	225,000.00
Total Amount Allocated	\$	16,800.00
Current Balance	\$	208,200.00