



RESOLUTION NO. 41757

1 BY REQUEST OF COUNCIL MEMBERS BUSHNELL, DIAZ, SADALGE, AND
2 WALKER

3 A RESOLUTION authorizing the one-time use of funds in the amount of \$20,000,
4 budgeted from the Council Contingency Fund, to Advocates for Immigrants
5 in Detention Northwest, for their Phone Call Fund and to support their
6 Welcome Center services.

7 WHEREAS Advocates for Immigrants in Detention Northwest (“AIDNW”) is a
8 non-profit that serves immigrants detained in the Pacific Northwest through
9 assistance, advocacy, and increased awareness, and

10 WHEREAS through hands-on immigrant assistance programs, AIDNW’s
11 small staff and over 200 volunteers address the needs of detained persons held
12 inside the Northwest ICE Processing Center (“NWIPC”), as well as upon release,
13 and the need for support of detainees within NWIPC is rapidly increasing, and

14 WHEREAS according to Congresswoman Emily Randall, the number of
15 detainees held at NWIPC, which has a capacity of 1,575, has increased
16 significantly from about 700 in November 2024 to 1,300 in April 2025, and 1,562 as
17 of August 1st, and

18 WHEREAS detainees are having to stay longer in the NWIPC, with certain
19 detainees no longer eligible for a bond hearing as they fight deportation
20 proceedings in court, and

21 WHEREAS this request includes \$8,000 to AIDNW for their Phone Call Fund
22 to support access to phone services for detainees in the NWIPC, and

23 WHEREAS the NWIPC requires detainees to utilize a private, for-profit
24 phone service to place phone calls, and AIDNW receives \$2,700 a month from a
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1 private donor for this program, but due to the increased population in the facility,
2 these funds are exhausted by the fifth day of the month, and

3 WHEREAS these allocated funds would be used by AIDNW to distribute
4 phone money to low-income detainees in \$20 per month increments which can be
5 used by detainees to call friends, family, and legal advocates, and

7 WHEREAS communication with the outside world is crucial for incarcerated
8 people, which includes individuals facing deportation while detained in immigration
9 detention centers, who do not have the right to court-appointed counsel, and

11 WHEREAS having the ability to make a phone call in a detention center is
12 essential for a variety of reasons, including an individual's need to secure legal
13 representation or advice, gather evidence to support their defenses against
14 deportation, and receive emotional support from family and friends, and

15 WHEREAS detained immigrants with legal representation are ten times more
16 likely to win their immigration cases compared to those who lack counsel, and are
17 seven times more likely to be released from custody than those without counsel,
18 and

20 WHEREAS in some cases, detainees can contact Northwest Immigrant
21 Rights Project ("NWIRP") for free, but not all detainees have NWIRP lawyers, and
22 low-income individuals detained in the NWIPC risk being unable to afford to pay for
23 phone access and face reduced access to legal support and poor mental and
24 emotional health impacts from isolation, and



1 WHEREAS this request includes \$12,000 to AIDNW to support running their
2 Welcome Center, as individuals released from the NWIPC are not offered
3 resources to communicate with friends or family to pick them up, arrange
4 transportation, or find housing, and
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6 WHEREAS the NWIPC is in an isolated location without resources, and this
7 Welcome Center is located immediately outside the NWIPC and is staffed primarily
8 with volunteers who warmly greet released immigrants and asylum seekers, and
9 offer food, charge electronics like phones, and assist individuals in arranging where
10 to go, and
11

12 WHEREAS in 2025, 59 percent of individuals released from NWIPC were not
13 from our region, and without the Welcome Center there to help connect these
14 individuals to their friends and family, and to provide rides to places like the airport
15 or train station, these individuals could end up isolated or homeless in the Tideflats,
16 and
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18 WHEREAS AIDNW will also assist local individuals in reuniting with friends
19 and family, connecting to host homes if eligible, or transporting individuals to
20 shelters, and
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22 WHEREAS AIDNW has also served as the approved party to receive
23 individuals who qualify for the Franco Qualified Representative Program, a
24 nationwide program to provide necessary services to detained individuals who have
25 been found mentally incompetent to represent themselves, and
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1 WHEREAS the compassionate support that AIDNW volunteers and staff
2 offer to immigrants in detention, and at their release, relieves isolation and anxiety,
3 connects them to community resources, and provides hope for new lives, and
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5 WHEREAS, at the August 26, 2025, Study Session, Council Member Diaz
6 shared a Council Consideration Request to authorize the one-time use of \$20,000
7 from the Council Contingency Fund, to Advocates for Immigrants in Detention
8 Northwest, for their Phone Call Fund and to support their Welcome Center services,
9 and
10

11 WHEREAS RCW 35.34.250 and 35.34.260 authorize a withdrawal from the
12 Council Contingency fund for any municipal expense, the necessity or extent of
13 which could not have been foreseen or reasonably evaluated at the time of
14 adopting the budget, and
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16 WHEREAS Ordinance No. 22569 requires an affirmative vote of not less
17 than six members of the Council in order to withdraw moneys from this fund; Now,
18 Therefore,
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20 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TACOMA:

21 Section 1. That the foregoing Recitals are hereby adopted as the City
22 Council's legislative findings.

23 Section 2. That one-time funding in the amount of \$20,000, budgeted from
24 the Council Contingency Fund, is hereby approved for the purpose of supporting
25 the Advocates for Immigrants in Detention Northwest ("AIDNW"), Phone Call Fund
26 and to support their Welcome Center services.



1 Section 3. That the proper officers of the City are hereby authorized to
2 confirm deliverables with AIDNW for the purposes hereinabove enumerated, and
3 document as appropriate.
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5 Adopted _____
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7 _____
8 Mayor

9 Attest:
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11 _____
12 City Clerk

13 Approved as to form:
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15 _____
16 Deputy City Attorney
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