



TO: Hyun Kim, Interim City Manager
FROM: Council Member Diaz and Senior Council Policy Analyst Lynda Foster
COPY: City Clerk and City Council
SUBJECT: Resolution – Public declaration of solidarity with the Northwest Immigrant Rights Project values and their work of daily defense for people in detention and deportation proceedings – March 31, 2026
DATE: March 25, 2026

SUMMARY AND PURPOSE:

A resolution authorizing a Council Contingency Fund expenditure of \$15,000 to sponsor the Northwest Immigration Rights Project’s 2026 Gala and make a public declaration of solidarity with Northwest Immigrant Rights Project’s values.

COUNCIL SPONSORS:

Council Members Diaz, Hines, and Palmer.

BACKGROUND:

The Tacoma City Council stands in solidarity with our immigrant and refugee community. Since declaring Tacoma Welcoming City in 2015, the City of Tacoma has sought tangible ways to support immigrants and refugees and those detained in the Northwest ICE Processing Center (NWIPC). This includes funding phone card access for detainees, supporting the Advocates for Immigrants in Detention Northwest (AIDNW) Welcome Center, and funding legal assistance for those detained in the NWIPC.

By sponsoring the 2026 Northwest Immigrant Rights Project (NWIRP) Gala the City of Tacoma makes a public declaration that it stands in solidarity with NWIRP’s values:

1. **Dignity:** We all deserve to have our human dignity and fundamental rights respected.
2. **Fairness:** Laws and policies should be fair and equitable. When liberty or fundamental rights are at stake, all people are entitled to meaningful due process and competent legal representation
3. **Solidarity:** We are connected by our common humanity, by global forces that affect our lives, and by historic patterns of oppression, discrimination and inequity. For society to be just and whole, we must work together to undo systemic oppression in its many forms.
4. **Self-Determination:** Society thrives when all people have opportunities to live their lives to their fullest potential.
5. **Safety:** People and communities thrive when we all feel and experience safety. Safety should never be used to justify oppression.
6. **Inclusion:** We see diversity and inclusiveness as a source of strength.

The NWIRP will promote the City of Tacoma’s shared values by including the City’s name in the event program and slideshow, in pre-event recognition on the event website and emails reaching over 40,000 people, and in social media posts.

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. Over the last year community members have



continued to advocate for support of immigrant rights, and specifically support of individuals detained by the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and held at the NWIPC.

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.

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

Civic Engagement: Equity Index Score: Moderate Opportunity

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.

Increase the number of residents who participate civically through volunteering and voting.

Livability: Equity Index Score: Moderate Opportunity

Improve health outcomes and reduce disparities, in alignment with the community health needs assessment and CHIP, for all Tacoma residents

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

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

The Northwest Immigrant Rights Project promotes justice by defending and advancing the rights of immigrants through direct legal services, systemic advocacy, and community education. Supporting their work will directly improve the quality of life for immigrants and refugees in the community. This action will also demonstrate that the City Council actively seeks ways to affirm the values of the Tacoma community, and will encourage community to stay engaged and share their voice on important topics.

ALTERNATIVES:

Alternative(s)	Positive Impact(s)	Negative Impact(s)
1. Take no action	Preserve resources for other priorities	Does not state and promote the City’s values on a critical topic
2.		
3.		

EVALUATION AND FOLLOW UP:

The NWIRP will promote the City of Tacoma’s shared values by including the City’s name in the event program and slideshow, in pre-event recognition on the event website and emails reaching over 40,000 people, and in social media posts.

STAFF/SPONSOR RECOMMENDATION:

Sponsors recommend adopting this resolution and making a public declaration of solidarity with the Northwest Immigrant Rights Project values and their work of daily defense for people in detention and deportation proceedings.



FISCAL IMPACT:

Fund Number & Name	COST OBJECT (CC/WBS/ORDER)	Cost Element	Total Amount
1.1030- Council Contingency Fund	660000		\$15,000
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

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?

No

Will the legislation have an ongoing/recurring fiscal impact?

No

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

No

ATTACHMENTS:

- N/A

Contingency Commitments 2026

Resolution Number	Funding Amount
Resolution 41859	
Oasis Center	\$30,000.00
Council Contingency Fund request of \$30,000 to fund the Oasis Youth Center's HIV and STI self-testing for LGBTQ+ youth ages 14 and older in Pierce County.	
Resolution 41864	
True Vine Community Church of God in Christ	\$25,000.00
Council Contingency Fund request of \$25,000 to sponsor the 5th Annual Citywide Block Party.	
To Council March 31, 2026	
Northwest Immigrant Rights Project 2026 Gala Sponsorship	\$15,000.00
A Council Contingency Fund expenditure of \$15,000 to sponsor the Northwest Immigration Rights Project's 2026 Gala and make a public declaration of solidarity with Northwest Immigrant Rights Project's values	
Starting Balance	\$259,328.56
Allocated Funding	\$70,000.00
Remaining Balance	<i>\$189,328.56</i>