



RESOLUTION NO. 41378

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

3 A RESOLUTION authorizing the one-time use of funds in the amount of \$10,000,
4 budgeted from the Council Contingency Fund, for Advocates for Immigrants
5 in Detention Northwest, for their phone call fund to support access to phone
6 services for detainees in the Northwest Immigration and Customs
7 Enforcement Processing Center.

8 WHEREAS Advocates for Immigrants in Detention Northwest (“AIDNW”) is a
9 non-profit organization that serves immigrants detained in the Pacific Northwest
10 through assistance, advocacy, increased awareness, and through hands-on
11 immigrant assistance programs, and AIDNW’s small staff and over 200 volunteers
12 address the needs of detained persons held inside the Northwest Immigration and
13 Customs Enforcement Processing Center (“NWIPC”), and

14 WHEREAS the NWIPC requires detainees to utilize a private, for-profit
15 phone service to place phone calls, and

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

19 WHEREAS having the ability to make a telephone call while in a detention
20 center is essential for a variety of reasons, including to secure legal representation
21 or advice, to gather evidence to support their defenses against deportation, and to
22 receive needed emotional support from family and friends, and

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

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3 WHEREAS telephone calls from within the detention center are not free, and
4 the cost of telephones calls exceeds 50 cents per minute for individuals in detention,

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7 WHEREAS in some cases, detainees can contact Northwest Immigrant
8 Rights Project (“NWIRP”) for free, however not all detainees have NWIRP attorneys,

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11 WHEREAS low-income individuals detained in the NWIPC risk being unable
12 to afford to pay for telephone access and face reduced access to legal support, as
13 well as poor mental and emotional health impacts from isolation, and

14 WHEREAS, at the February 20, 2024, Study Session, Council Member Diaz
15 shared a Council Consideration Request to authorize the one-time use of \$10,000
16 from the Council Contingency Fund to AIDNW for their phone call fund to support
17 access to phone services for detainees in the NWIPC, and

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19 WHEREAS City staff will negotiate and execute an agreement for services,
20 with terms and deliverables for the City’s contribution, and

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WHEREAS RCW 35.34.250 and 35.34.260 authorize a withdrawal from the Council Contingency fund for any municipal expense, the necessity or extent of which could not have been foreseen or reasonably evaluated at the time of adopting the budget, and

WHEREAS Ordinance No. 22569 requires an affirmative vote of not less than six members of the Council in order to withdraw moneys from this fund; Now, Therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TACOMA:

Section 1. That one-time funding in the amount of \$10,000, budgeted from the Council Contingency Fund, is hereby approved for the purpose of supporting the Advocates for Immigrants in Detention Northwest (“AIDNW”), for their phone call fund to support access to phone services for detainees in the Northwest Immigration and Customs Enforcement Processing Center.



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Section 2. That the proper officers of the City are hereby authorized to confirm deliverables with AIDNW for the purposes hereinabove enumerated, and document as appropriate.

Adopted _____

Mayor

Attest:

City Clerk

Approved as to form:

Deputy City Attorney