RESOLUTION NO. 41844

BY REQUEST OF COUNCIL MEMBERS DIAZ, PALMER, AND SADALGE

A RESOLUTION relating to immigration; directing the City Manager to create a webpage to share resources for immigrants, community members, and businesses related to immigration issues impacting residents of the City, to include background on City Council legislation in support of the City's immigrant and refugee community, and the City's advocacy to restrict the use of for-profit detention centers; and directing the City Manager to create outreach materials and share this information with affected community members.

WHEREAS approximately seven percent of the United States population, or 22.8 million people, are non-citizens, and in 2017, nearly 260,000 people sought asylum, or protection from persecution, within the United States, and

WHEREAS as of 2022, over 12 percent of the City's population was born outside the United States, with nearly 20 percent speaking a language other than English at home, and

WHEREAS today, immigrant communities are under threat of mass deportations, and anyone without secure immigration status may be subject to enforcement efforts, with people who were ordered deported in the past and people who have had contact with the criminal legal system being at particular risk, and

WHEREAS these immigrant populations experience unique risks to health, including pre-migratory trauma, unsafe and stressful migration experiences, and post-migration discrimination, and

WHEREAS human rights abuses can occur across this spectrum of the immigrant experience, and additionally, these health behaviors and outcomes ripple throughout the communities to which immigrants belong, and

WHEREAS over the last year, the Federal Government has continued to promote actions and policies that sow fear and anxiety in our communities, and the City Council is deeply alarmed by reports documenting the far-reaching damage of these operations, including tragic accounts of individuals who have died while in federal custody, and

WHEREAS independent media investigations, including recent data published by ProPublica, indicate that these tactics have resulted in the wrongful detainment and mistreatment of over 170 United States citizens, and combined with reports of deaths in United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement (“ICE”) custody, this statistic underscores a chaotic approach to enforcement that endangers everyone, regardless of status, and

WHEREAS when the government arrests or tries to arrest someone, or when a government official or police officer "just wants to talk," every person in the United States has certain basic rights, and these rights apply to everyone, regardless of citizenship, and

WHEREAS the City Council understands that, with some exceptions, businesses also have the legal right to restrict enforcement officers from entering a private space without a judicial warrant or an employer’s permission, and believes it

is important that residents in the City be familiar with their rights, be encouraged to assert their rights, and help protect others by informing them of their rights, and

WHEREAS the City has a proud history of inclusivity, tolerance, and compassion for all residents, and the diversity of our people and cultures is a critical part of who we are as a City, and

WHEREAS everyone has the right to live peacefully and without fear, and we condemn the persecution of many others around the world who face extreme barriers and inequitable treatment on account of their race, ethnicity, education level, economic status, gender, immigration status, sexual orientation, skin color, religion, political opinion, and other identities, and

WHEREAS Tacoma is a welcoming City that affirms the fundamental dignity of immigrants and refugees, commits to building welcoming communities and bringing together community members in a spirit of solidarity, and the inclusivity of our immigrant and refugee community members aligns with the City's Equity and Empowerment framework, which strives to give everyone equitable access to the opportunities necessary to assert their human rights, satisfy their essential needs, advance their well-being, and achieve their full potential; Now, Therefore,

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

Section 1. That the City Manager is hereby directed to create a webpage to share resources for immigrants, community members, and businesses related to immigration issues impacting residents of the City, including background on

City Council legislation in support of the City's immigrant and refugee community, and the City's advocacy to restrict the use of for-profit detention centers.

Section 2. That the City Manager is hereby directed to create outreach materials and share this information with affected community members.

Adopted _____

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Mayor

Attest:

_____
City Clerk

Approved as to form:

_____
City Attorney