



**CITY OF TACOMA, WASHINGTON
OFFICE OF THE CITY COUNCIL
COUNCIL CONSIDERATION REQUEST (CCR)**

TO: Mayor & City Council
FROM: Councilmember Marty Campbell
COPIES TO: Mark Lauzier, Acting City Manager; Nadia Chandler Hardy, Assistant to the City Manager; Elizabeth Pauli, City Attorney; Executive Leadership Team; File
SUBJECT: Immigrant and Refugee Task Force creation
DATE: January 30, 2017

ITEM/ISSUE PROPOSED FOR COUNCIL CONSIDERATION:

I ask for your support for the inclusion of the following item on the agenda at the earliest available meeting of the Study Session:

Requesting the Council direct the City Manager's office to establish an Immigrant and Refugee Task Force.

BRIEF BACKGROUND:

Recent census figures for Tacoma report that 13.4 percent of the City's population is foreign-born and 19 percent speak a language other than English in their homes. Immigrants and refugees in Tacoma are highly represented from every continent, including Latin America, Southeast Asia, Eastern Europe and the Middle East.

On February 17, 2015, the City Council passed Resolution No. 39116, designating Tacoma as a member of the Welcoming Cities and Counties Initiative which encourages communities across the United States to create more welcoming, immigrant friendly environments that maximize opportunities for economic growth and cultural vitality.

Due to strong interest in the initiative among the City's Latino residents and community partners, City Council passed Resolution No. 39391, supporting a successful series of Latino Town Halls with the goal of improving the understanding of the needs and concerns of the Latino community in Tacoma. Leaders emerged from these meetings to form the Latino Town Hall Task Force which presented the recommendations of the community to Council.

Recent federal executive orders have created fear and unease among immigrants and refugees across the country and in Tacoma. Building off of the recommendations of the town hall task force, we would like to not only reiterate that Tacoma is, and will continue to be, a Welcoming City, but to amplify and support the voice of our cultural and ethnic communities. We want to provide a forum designed to listen to the needs and concerns of our immigrant and refugee population.

We request that the City Manager's Office convene a roundtable of immigrants and refugees, to which members of those communities in Tacoma are invited, and from which a task force can be created. We believe that this Task Force will provide an opportunity for those concerned parties to work with the City in ensuring all Tacoma residents feel valued, secure, and supported and that we continue to live out our vision for Tacoma to be an inclusive and equitable place to live, work and play.

SUBMITTED FOR COUNCIL CONSIDERATION BY: 
Council Member Marty Campbell

SUPPORTING COUNCILMEMBERS SIGNATURES (2 SIGNATURES ONLY)

1.  POS # 5

2.  POS# 6