



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

**TO:** Mayor & City Council  
**FROM:** Council Member Keith Blocker and Council Assistant Rebecca Boydston  
**COPIES TO:** Elizabeth Pauli, City Manager; Mark Lauzier, Assistant City Manager; Bill Fosbre, City Attorney; Executive Leadership Team; File  
**SUBJECT:** Immigrant Defense Fund  
**DATE:** June 20, 2017

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**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:

**BRIEF BACKGROUND:**

In light of recent changes to federal immigration policy, several cities, such as San Francisco, Seattle, and Chicago have created immigrant defense funds. These funds help to ensure those facing deportation hearings are able to have a lawyer present with them. Currently, since immigration cases are considered civil, not criminal, there is no right to have a public defense attorney, and often undocumented immigrants are not able to afford counsel. One study has shown that undocumented immigrants are ten times more likely to be deported when they face deportation hearings without counsel.

I would like to request the Community, Vitality, and Safety Committee to include this item on their upcoming agenda in order to examine several issues, including the feasibility of establishing such a fund and which undocumented immigrants would qualify.

**FUNDING REQUESTED:**

I would request the Community, Vitality, and Safety Committee to include this item on their upcoming agenda in order to examine several issues, including the potential costs and funding streams.

In you have a question related to the Council Consideration Request, please contact Rebecca Boydston at 253-591-5164 or [Rebecca.Boydston@cityoftacoma.org](mailto:Rebecca.Boydston@cityoftacoma.org)

**SUBMITTED FOR COUNCIL CONSIDERATION BY:**   
Council Member

**SUPPORTING COUNCILMEMBERS SIGNATURES (2 SIGNATURES ONLY)**

*(Signatures demonstrate support to initiate discussion and consideration of the subject matter by City Council for potential policy development and staff guidance/direction.)*

1. *James Walter Jr*

POS # 6

2. *[Signature]*

POS# 1