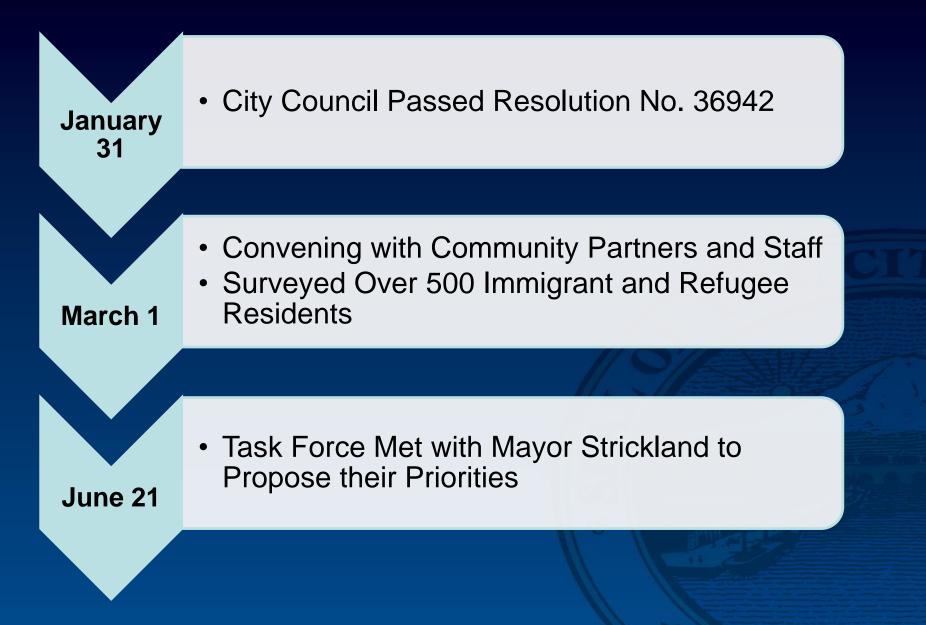
Office of Equity and Human Rights

Proposed Commission on Immigration and Refugee Affairs Immigrant and Refugee Task Force Priority Review

Community, Vitality and Safety Committee November 9, 2017

1

Timeline



Task Force Priorities

Identified issues and challenges faced by immigrant and refugee communities and recommended policies

- Create a Deportation Defense Fund
- Better Language Access to City Resources
- Establish an Immigrant and Refugee Affairs Commission

Immigrant and Refugee Affairs Commission

To have a <u>permanent</u> Commission that ensures unique issues that come out of immigrant and refugee communities, stay relevant to the City and its lawmakers

- Advise Policy Recommendations
- Advocate on Behalf of the Communities
- Ameliorate Barriers Between Tacoma and Communities

Pros

- Permanent representation for the Immigrant and Refugee Community
- Incorporation into the Tacoma Municipal Code give authority to the Commission

Cons

- Overlap with the Human Rights Commission
- Fiscal Impact (Translators/ Administrator)

Alternative: Human Rights Commission

The Human Rights Commission was created by the Tacoma City Council to study, investigate and mediate community issues that may result from discrimination on the:

- Race
- Religion
- Color
- Sex
- Gender identity
- Sexual orientation

- Age
- Marital status
- Familial status
- Honorably discharged veteran
- Military status
- Disability
- National origin/ancestry

Human Rights Commission

National Origin/Ancestry includes:

Ethnicity

Accent

Appearance of a certain ethnic background

Individuals from part of the world outside the U.S.

Pros

- Update the Municipal Code to include language pertaining to immigrants and refugees
- Currently vacancies on the Human Rights Commission
- Commission is currently staffed

Cons

- Fiscal Impact (Translators)
- Limited jurisdiction within the Municipal Code not referencing citizenship status
- Dilute the current portfolio of the Human Rights Commission

Alternative: Immigrant and Refugee Affairs Task Force

Identify issues and challenges faced by immigrant and refugee communities; make policy *recommendations* to address issues and challenges. The task force would also serve as a public platform to ensure immigrant and refugee issues stay relevant to the City and its lawmakers.

Pros

- The Task Force work will continue as long as the need is present
- The structure and members are in place

Cons

- No authority in the Tacoma Municipal Code
- Fiscal Impact (Translators)

Questions?

Diane Powers, Director Office of Equity and Human Rights dpowers@cityoftacoma.org