

# **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**



# Timeline

**January  
31**

- City Council Passed Resolution No. 36942

**March 1**

- Convening with Community Partners and Staff
- Surveyed Over 500 Immigrant and Refugee Residents

**June 21**

- Task Force Met with Mayor Strickland to Propose their Priorities

# 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 permanent 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?

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