



## RESOLUTION NO.

1 A RESOLUTION establishing a Commission on Immigrant and Refugee Affairs,  
2 to be composed of eleven members, for the purpose of better engaging  
3 Tacoma's immigrant and refugee communities; and to work with  
4 community partners, City departments, and within the City's Equity and  
5 Empowerment framework to identify and advance positive outcomes for  
6 members of refugee and immigrant communities related to access to and  
7 participation in Tacoma's economic, cultural and civic life and to  
8 employment, economic development, public health, student achievement,  
9 citizenship, public safety, criminal justice, civic engagement, language  
10 access, and protection of civil rights.

11 WHEREAS the City wishes to be recognized as a livable and progressive  
12 international city, regarded for the richness of its diverse population and natural  
13 setting, and

14 WHEREAS Tacoma is home to many immigrant and refugee  
15 communities, and the City recognizes the value of cultural diversity and its  
16 contribution to the City's civic and economic identity, and

17 WHEREAS the City is committed to improving the lives of all it is  
18 residents, regardless of race, ethnicity, gender, age, sexual orientation, national  
19 origin, or language, and

20 WHEREAS the City passed the Welcoming Cities and Counties Initiative,  
21 which encourages communities to create more welcoming, immigrant-friendly  
22 environments that maximize opportunities for economic growth and vitality, and  
23 supports all efforts to make the City more vibrant, inclusive, and welcoming for  
24 all, and

25 WHEREAS the City passed an Equity and Empowerment Initiative that  
26 seeks to have purposeful community outreach and engagement, and supports



human rights and opportunities for every person to achieve their full potential,

and

WHEREAS language and cultural barriers may compromise equal access to government services and programs, and

WHEREAS the City Council is working to enhance and improve both the relationship of City government with refugee and immigrant residents, and access to City services and resources for these communities, and

WHEREAS the City Council desires to take proactive steps to strengthen ongoing efforts to address existing and emerging needs of immigrant and refugee communities by the creation of the Commission on Immigrant and Refugee Affairs; Now, Therefore,

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

Section 1. That the Commission on Immigrant and Refugee Affairs ("Commission") is hereby established for the purpose of better engaging immigrant and refugee communities, with the goal of reducing barriers to immigrant and refugee access to and participation in Tacoma's economic, cultural and civic life. The Commission will work with community partners, City departments, and within the City's Equity and Empowerment framework to identify and advance positive outcomes for members of refugee and immigrant communities related to employment, economic development, public health, student achievement, citizenship, public safety, criminal justice, civic engagement, language access, and protection of civil rights.



A. Commission Composition.

1                   1. The Commission shall be composed of eleven members  
2 appointed by a majority of the City Council. Written public notice will be given of  
3 any vacant positions.  
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5                   2. In making appointments to the Commission, all efforts shall be  
6 made to maintain gender and sexual orientation balance and to reflect the  
7 diversity of the immigrant and refugee community in Tacoma. To the extent  
8 possible, membership should be from African communities, European/Middle  
9 East communities, Latino communities, and Asian/Pacific Islander communities.  
10 At least two members shall be youth or young adults under the age of 25, or an  
11 individual from an organization that represents youth issues. At least two-thirds  
12 of the members should be immigrants or refugees. All members shall  
13 demonstrate experience or expertise with immigrant issues, as well as a  
14 commitment to all immigrant and refugee communities. The City Council will  
15 coordinate appointments to ensure the representation goals in this subsection  
16 are met.  
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19                   3. Each Commissioner shall serve for a term of two years. No  
20 member shall serve more than three consecutive terms. Any vacancy shall be  
21 filled for the unexpired term in the same manner as originally appointed. If a  
22 person is appointed to fill the duration of an unexpired term, then that term shall  
23 qualify as one of three consecutive terms if the portion of the unexpired term  
24 actually served is one year or more.  
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## B. Commission Duties.

1                   1. The Commission shall have the duty and power to study  
2 problems and issues specifically impacting the immigrant and refugee  
3 communities in the City of Tacoma and provide written recommendations,  
4 context, and input to Tacoma's policy makers, including to the Mayor, City  
5 Council, City Manager, and City Department heads, toward the development and  
6 implementation of programs, services, and practices specific to the purpose of  
7 furthering immigrant and refugee access to and participation in Tacoma's  
8 economic, cultural, and civic life.  
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11                   2. The Commission may hold public meetings, consult with other  
12 public agencies, civil rights organizations, representatives of employers, labor  
13 unions, faith based institutions, professional associations, community  
14 organizations concerned with and advocating for immigrants and refugees, social  
15 welfare organizations, and any other associations, organizations, and institutions  
16 as directed by the City Council or as the Commission shall deem advisable to  
17 engage in a constructive, integrative, and meaningful way with immigrant and  
18 refugee and communities, to connect immigrant and refugee communities with  
19 allies and stakeholders, to provide education by raising awareness about  
20 available resources and opportunities, to identify mutual community challenges  
21 and opportunities and develop potential partnerships between Tacoma's  
22 immigrant and refugee communities and the City, and to promote recognition of  
23 the contributions of foreign-born residents to the economic and cultural vitality of  
24 Tacoma.  
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3. If requested, the Commission will collaborate with, assist, and make recommendations regarding the development and implementation of programs, services and practices specific to the purpose of furthering immigrant and refugee access to and participation in economic, cultural and civic life to any public officials, jurisdictions, departments, public or private organizations and citizens.

4. Annual Workplan. The Commission shall develop an Annual Workplan for each upcoming year and an Annual Report of each previous year's work. The Annual Report shall include a summary of Commission accomplishments and challenges, as well as recommendations on how the City can continue to develop and implement programs, services and practices specific to the purpose of furthering immigrant and refugee access to and participation in Tacoma's economic, cultural, and civic life. The Commission shall brief the City Council on the Annual Workplan and Annual Report.

5. Rules of procedure. The Commission may establish protocols and rules of procedure as are necessary to carry out the duties and functions of the Commission.



1           Section 2. That, in order to advance its mission, the Commission will be  
2 provided staff support on behalf of the City of Tacoma.

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4 Adopted \_\_\_\_\_

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6 \_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor

7 Attest:

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9 \_\_\_\_\_  
City Clerk

10 Approved as to form:

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12 \_\_\_\_\_  
13 Deputy City Attorney