



CITY COUNCIL AGENDA REPORT

City of Anaheim OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

DATE: DECEMBER 20, 2016
FROM: OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER
**SUBJECT: CREATION OF A MAYORAL TASK FORCE TO RESEARCH
AND ESTABLISH A WELCOMING ANAHEIM INITIATIVE**

ATTACHMENT (Y/N): NO ITEM# 44

ACTION:

That the City Council, by Motion, discuss and direct staff to begin the process of forming a Mayoral task force for the purposes of researching and developing a new community integration initiative entitled Welcome Anaheim.

DISCUSSION:

At the December 13, 2016 council meeting, Council Member Jose Moreno requested that an item be brought back to council regarding the formation of a Mayoral task force for the purposes of researching and developing a new community integration initiative entitled Welcome Anaheim. This initiative is to be modeled after the Welcoming America program and would seek to adopt policy tools and best practices from around the country on how best to integrate all members of our community, specifically new immigrants and refugees, and to assure them that they are a valued part of this City.

President Obama established the White House Task Force on New Americans in November 2014 in an effort to better integrate immigrants and refugees into American life. The Task Force then created the “Building Welcoming Communities Campaign” (Welcoming Communities) to encourage local communities to join the effort. The Welcoming Communities campaign is focused around three principals of engagement to assist in integrating communities: civic, economic, and linguistic.

In addition to the Welcoming Communities campaign, “Welcoming America” is a national non-profit organization with expertise in welcoming efforts that provides resources and education to local communities. Together, these two programs offer technical assistance, resources, and guidance to local communities interested in taking steps to improve the integration of their residents. To date, Welcoming America has over 70 cities and counties throughout the country that have officially committed to becoming a welcoming community. According to Welcoming America, welcoming communities foster a culture and policy environment that makes it possible for newcomers of all backgrounds to feel valued and to fully participate alongside their neighbors in the social, civic, and economic fabric of their adopted hometowns. Additionally, welcoming

communities realize economic, social and cultural benefits, as well as a general improvement in citizen engagement and the quality of life.

If directed, City staff will work in conjunction with the Mayor's Office and reach out to residents and various stakeholder groups, including social service agencies and faith based groups within Anaheim in order to form a task force that would be responsible for researching and evaluating new strategies and opportunities for Anaheim to employ. This task force will then report back to the City Council with specific recommendations and policy considerations on how best to move forward with this initiative.

IMPACT ON BUDGET:

There is no budgetary impact for the creation of the task force. Should additional resources be required for the Welcome Anaheim Initiative, it is anticipated that those will be considered in conjunction with the task force recommendations.

Respectfully submitted,

Greg Garcia
Deputy City Manager