



CITY COUNCIL AGENDA STATEMENT



October 22, 2019

File ID: 19-0468

TITLE

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CHULA VISTA APPROVING THE WELCOMING CITY IMPLEMENTATION PLAN THAT SUPPORTS THE CITY'S APPLICATION FOR WELCOMING CITY CERTIFICATION FROM WELCOMING AMERICA

RECOMMENDED ACTION

Council adopt the resolution.

SUMMARY

The City of Chula Vista is proud to be one of the cities leading the charge and setting the standard for embracing immigrants and refugees. Chula Vista is located at the center of one of the richest cultural, ethnically diverse, and multilingual communities in the United States. The strength and well-being of the immigrant community is important to residents and leaders of Chula Vista, which is why the City Council unanimously supported a resolution to join the "Welcoming America" network and pursue Welcoming City Certification.

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

The City's Development Services Director has reviewed the proposed activity for compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and has determined that the activity is not a "Project" as defined under Section 15378 of the State CEQA Guidelines because it will not result in a physical change in the environment; therefore, pursuant to Section 15060(c)(3) of the State CEQA Guidelines, the activity is not subject to CEQA. Thus, no environmental review is required.

BOARD/COMMISSION/COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

The Human Relations Commission recommends Council adopt the Welcoming City Implementation Plan.

DISCUSSION

Welcoming America provides tools and resources to help cities and partners reduce the barriers that immigrants face to fully participate in the economic and social fabric of the community and to build bridges between newcomers and long-time residents. The City's decision to join the Welcoming America network and apply for Welcoming City Certification put in motion a new approach to develop and implement a program for better communication of our policies and services to the immigrant community and provide a framework for considering how to acknowledge and address the immigrant experience in Chula Vista. The

decision also initiated the application process for Welcoming City Certification. This Plan is a key component for certification.

The development and ongoing implementation of this plan is one of the initiatives guided by the Chula Vista Human Relations Commission in collaboration with city staff, partner agencies, and other groups and organizations that contribute to the implementation and success of the plan. In addition, the City of Chula Vista will actively seek ongoing input and feedback from the community to ensure the program is maintained as well as enhanced and expanded to reflect the desires of residents and the immigrant community.

The Welcoming City Implementation Plan is organized into these categories:

- Government Leadership
- Equitable Access
- Civic Engagement
- Connected Communities
- Educational Partnerships
- Economic Development
- Safe Communities

The Welcoming City Implementation Plan further extends immigrant inclusion in all facets of city life. The Plan was developed with input and collaboration from a variety of groups, outreach activities and meetings:

- Outreach and input from various stakeholders and City Council members in 2017 at City Council Meetings, community meetings, outreach meetings
- Input from the community as the Human Relations Commission was reestablished in 2017 at meetings and outreach events
- Input from Human Relations Commission members as Welcoming City Certification application was prepared
- Input and engagement from internal partners including staff in library, recreation, cultural arts, housing, and Healthy Chula Vista.
- Input and engagement from external partners including South Bay Community Services, Chula Vista Collaborative, San Ysidro Health Center, Chula Vista Elementary School District, Sweetwater Union High School District, South County Economic Development Council, and others.
- Review of City documents including Marketing and Communications Plan, Welcoming City Communications Plan, Healthy Chula Vista Action Plan, Cultural Arts Master Plan, Language Access policies, and Chula Vista Police Department policies
- Participation in community engagement activities such as Districting Commission in 2014-2015, Infrastructure Assessment meetings and outreach, and partnership with Alliance for Californians for Community Empowerment to improve neighborhood infrastructure

Activities and initiatives included in the Welcoming City Implementation Plan will be reviewed annually by the Human Relations Commission with input from internal and external stakeholders (City staff, education and community partners, government agencies, etc.). Any new initiatives or suggested updates will be

considered and incorporated, as appropriate. The Welcoming City Certification designation is for three years (estimated 2019 – 2022). That timeframe allows City leaders, staff, Human Relations Commission, and other stakeholders to ensure the plan and priorities evolve to address the needs of our immigrant community.

DECISION-MAKER CONFLICT

Staff has reviewed the decision contemplated by this action and has determined that it is not site-specific and consequently, the real property holdings of the City Council members do not create a disqualifying real property-related financial conflict of interest under the Political Reform Act (Cal. Gov't Code § 87100, et seq.).

Staff is not independently aware, and has not been informed by any City Council member, of any other fact that may constitute a basis for a decision-maker conflict of interest in this matter.

CURRENT-YEAR FISCAL IMPACT

There is no current-year fiscal impact.

ONGOING FISCAL IMPACT

Any ongoing fiscal impact (e.g., Welcoming City Certification renewal) will be considered as part of the budget development process.

ATTACHMENTS

Welcoming City Implementation Plan

Staff Contact: Anne Steinberger