

SUMMARY and FISCAL NOTE*

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** Note that the Summary and Fiscal Note describes the version of the bill or resolution as introduced; final legislation including amendments may not be fully described.*

1. BILL SUMMARY

Legislation Title: A RESOLUTION relating to public outreach and engagement; establishing citywide community involvement principles; directing the Department of Neighborhoods to lead City departments in the development of community involvement plans; directing the Seattle Office for Civil Rights to assist City departments with the development of community outreach and engagement efforts that advance racial equity; directing the Office of Immigrant and Refugee Affairs to develop a citywide language access strategy; and superseding Resolution 27709, Resolution 28115, and Resolution 28948.

Summary and background of the Legislation: On July 13, 2016, Mayor Murray issued Executive Order 2016-06, which directed City departments to implement new outreach and engagement practices that prioritize equity and reaffirm the City’s commitment to inclusive participation. Executive Order 2016-06 also called on DON, the Seattle Office for Civil Rights (SOCR), and CBO to craft a resolution that 1) supersedes previous resolutions that provided dedicated City staff support and decision-making authority to District Councils and the City Neighborhood Council; and 2) memorializes the following principles intended to guide the development and implementation of the new community involvement plans to be produced by each City department in partnership with DON:

- Improve and expand inclusive outreach and engagement, as well as the creation of equitable representative systems and tools that are more reflective of, and accessible to, communities throughout the City of Seattle.
- Create well-designed, responsive and culturally-relevant public involvement plans.
- Build community capacity for meaningful participation and authentic outreach and engagement.
- Provide a wide range of opportunities for obtaining information and involvement in decision-making processes.
- Achieve greater equity with meaningful involvement of underserved and underrepresented communities.
- Effectively and efficiently manage the use of all resources, including community members’ time.

This resolution, together with its accompanying ordinance, fulfill the legislative directives of Executive Order 2016-06.

The resolution also calls on SOCR to assist City departments with the development of equitable community outreach and engagement practices – including the creation of a citywide framework that addresses the impact of institutional practices on racial equity – and directs OIRA to develop an updated, citywide language access strategy that establishes thresholds for identifying populations in need, articulates how departments should provide language services on a project by project basis, and clarifies departmental resources for implementation.

2. CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

This legislation creates, funds, or amends a CIP Project.

3. SUMMARY OF FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

This legislation does not have direct financial implications.

4. OTHER IMPLICATIONS

a) Does the legislation have indirect or long-term financial impacts to the City of Seattle that are not reflected in the above?

No; the resolution’s directives will be carried out using existing City resources.

b) Is there financial cost or other impacts of not implementing the legislation?

If this resolution is not adopted, District Councils and the City Neighborhood Council could continue to receive a higher level of City assistance (prioritized support from DON’s team of Neighborhood District Coordinators, a distinct role in the review and ranking of Neighborhood Matching Fund grant applications) than all other community organizations located and working in Seattle neighborhoods. Additionally, City departments will lack legislative direction to develop new community involvement plans that prioritize equitable outreach and engagement, SOCR will not be tasked with crafting a citywide framework that assists City staff in understanding and addressing institutional practices that impact racial equity, and OIRA will not receive official direction to update and clarify the City’s decade-old language access strategy. These potential outcomes are inconsistent with the City of Seattle’s responsibility, as a steward of public funds, to direct its limited staff and public engagement resources to programs and activities that are inclusive, effective, and encourage participation by a broad range of community members.

c) Does this legislation affect any departments besides the originating department?

Yes. Through Executive Order 2016-06, the Mayor directed all City departments to work with DON to develop and implement community involvement plans consistent with the guiding principles memorialized in this resolution. This resolution reiterates that directive and also calls on OIRA to update the City’s language access strategy and for SOCR to

develop a citywide framework that assists City staff in understanding and addressing institutional practices that impact racial equity.

d) Is a public hearing required for this legislation?

A public hearing is not required for this specific piece of legislation; however, it will be transmitted to the City Council as part of the Mayor's 2017-2018 Proposed Budget and the City Council will host multiple public hearings on the Mayor's proposal as part of their review process.

e) Does this legislation require landlords or sellers of real property to provide information regarding the property to a buyer or tenant?

No.

f) Is publication of notice with *The Daily Journal of Commerce* and/or *The Seattle Times* required for this legislation?

No.

g) Does this legislation affect a piece of property?

No.

h) Please describe any perceived implication for the principles of the Race and Social Justice Initiative. Does this legislation impact vulnerable or historically disadvantaged communities?

Executive Order 2016-06 and this legislation call on all City departments to develop and implement public involvement plans that prioritize equitable, inclusive, and accessible community engagement practices. The intent of this effort is to help engage a broader range of community members – including representatives from underserved and underrepresented populations – in City decision-making processes. Consistent with this goal, this resolution would also end the City's practice of providing District Councils and the City Neighborhood Council with prioritized access to City resources, allowing City staff to support a greater diversity of community organizations, including those that serve vulnerable and/or historically disadvantaged populations. Additionally, the resolution tasks SOCR with the creation of a citywide framework that will help City staff to understand and address institutional practices that impact racial equity. Adoption of the legislation will also take important steps toward improving City outreach to many immigrant and refugee communities by initiating the first major update of the City's language access practices in nearly a decade.

i) If this legislation includes a new initiative or a major programmatic expansion: What are the long-term and measurable goals of the program? Please describe how this legislation would help achieve the program's desired goals.

The measurable goals of this legislation are as follows:

- Every City department will develop and implement a community involvement plan focused on equitable outreach and engagement; a progress report will be due to the Mayor and City Council by December 31, 2017.
- SOCR will develop a citywide framework that assists City staff in understanding

and addressing institutional practices that impact racial equity and deliver its proposal to the City Council by June 30, 2017.

- OIRA will develop an approach to updating and clarifying the City's language access strategy and deliver its recommendations to the City Council by June 30, 2017.

j) Other Issues:

To meet its business needs, DON's 2017-2018 budget proposal reallocates 2.0 FTE Neighborhood District Coordinator positions that previously provided staff support to District Councils to 2.0 FTE Strategic Advisor 1 positions. The reallocation would be budget-neutral; however, the funding source for the two positions would shift from General Fund support within DON to funding provided by the Seattle Department of Transportation (SDOT). Both Strategic Advisor 1 positions would work closely with staff from SDOT and the Office of Economic Development to help address the impacts of complex, large-scale infrastructure improvement projects on local communities.

This resolution was transmitted to the City Council together with a companion ordinance.

List attachments/exhibits below: None.