

RESOLUTION _____

A RESOLUTION requesting the Seattle Office of Civil Rights to implement its recommendations regarding how the City’s existing investments in translation and interpretation can be best used to support the overall goal of improving outreach to immigrant and refugee communities.

WHEREAS, the City of Seattle recognizes the many contributions of the immigrant and refugee community to our city, and,

WHEREAS, in 2004 the City of Seattle launched a Race and Social Justice Initiative (RSJI) with the intent of eliminating race-based disparities within Seattle; and,

WHEREAS, in 2007 the City of Seattle launched the Immigrant and Refugee Initiative (IRI) to ensure that immigrant and refugee community members could access and benefit from City programs and services, and,

WHEREAS the City of Seattle has previously adopted Resolution No. 30355, honoring Seattle’s immigrant community, and Resolution No. 30796, relating to development of an action plan to identify and address issues facing Seattle’s immigrant communities; and,

WHEREAS, the City of Seattle conducted a community needs assessment in 2007 with immigrant and refugee communities and thereby created what is now the Immigrant and Refugee ~~Advisory Board~~, and,

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WHEREAS, in 2011 responsibility for the IRI was transferred to the Seattle Office of Civil Rights (SOCR), and,

WHEREAS, the City of Seattle has strongly endorsed its Race and Social Justice Initiative and it has been administered through the SOCR, and,

WHEREAS, the City Council has on countless occasions, and specifically, under Resolution 31164, affirmed the City of Seattle’s race and social justice work and further directed City departments to use available tools to assist in the elimination of racial and social disparities across key indicators of success, including health, education, criminal justice, the environment, employment and the economy; and to promote equity within the City workplace and in the delivery of City services; and,

WHEREAS, as affirmed by Resolution 31164, racial and social disparities nevertheless continue to exist across key indicators of success in Seattle; and,

WHEREAS, translation and interpretation are both part of the City’s implementation of the Race and Social Justice Initiative’s comprehensive public engagement strategies, which includes immigrant and refugee communities; and,

1 WHEREAS, new demographic data shows that approximately 17% of Seattle residents are from
2 immigrant and refugee communities with Spanish being the most frequently interpreted
3 language for customers, followed by Chinese, Vietnamese, Russian, Somali and Korean;
4 and,

5 WHEREAS, SOCR recently provided the Council and the Mayor with a set of recommendations
6 regarding how existing City resources could be best directed to implement current City
7 policies on translation and interpretation;

8 NOW, THEREFORE,

9 **BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SEATTLE, THE
10 MAYOR CONCURRING, THAT:**

11 Section 1. The [Mayor and City Council support implementation of](#) Seattle Office of
12 Civil Rights (SOCR), [recommendations on how existing resources can be best directed to](#)
13 improve the City's approach to providing translation and interpretation services, and more
14 broadly to improve the City's outreach to immigrant and refugee communities. [SOCR should](#)
15 [continue to](#), work with other City departments, the Immigrant and Refugee [Advisory Board](#), and
16 the City's community partners to implement the following actions:

- 17 • Use existing tools and resources, such as the racial equity toolkit and the
18 Inclusive Outreach and Public Engagement (IOPE) toolkit, to support the
19 Immigrant and Refugee and Race and Social Justice Initiatives.
- 20 • Integrate translation and interpretation with broader immigrant and refugee
21 engagement strategy,
- 22 • Improve the City's organizational approach to these issues by consolidating the
23 Immigrant and Refugee Interdepartmental Team and the Translation and
24 Interpretation and IOPE liaison work groups into a single entity.

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- 1 • Track community demographics.
- 2 • Continue to build partnerships with immigrant and refugee community based
- 3 organizations and other institutions working with immigrant and refugee
- 4 communities.
- 5 • Communicate the City’s interpretation and translation policies more broadly and
- 6 throughout the City.
- 7
- 8 • Utilize the expertise of the Immigrant and Refugee Advisory Board for guidance
- 9 in implementing these recommendations.
- 10
- 11 • Continue to integrate immigrant and refugee access to services with the City’s
- 12 Race and Social Justice Initiative.

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13 Additional detail about each of these actions is provided in OCR’s response to Council’s
14 Statement of Legislative Intent regarding translation and interpretation services, which is
15 attached to this resolution.

16 Section 2. The Mayor and City Council support recommendations in the attachment that
17 require additional funding to the extent that funding becomes available.

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19 Adopted by the City Council the ____ day of _____, 2011, and
20 signed by me in open session in authentication of its adoption this _____ day
21 of _____, 2011.

22 _____
23 President _____ of the City Council

24 THE MAYOR CONCURRING:
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Sahar Fathi/SF
OCR – Office for Civil Rights, Interpretation Coordination
July 25, 2011
Version #2

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Michael McGinn, Mayor

Filed by me this ____ day of _____, 2011.

City Clerk

(Seal)

Attachment:

SLI response.