



RACE & SOCIAL JUSTICE
INITIATIVE

**ADVANCE OPPORTUNITY.
ACHIEVE EQUITY.**

Seattle Office of Intergovernmental Relations

Presentation to:
Seattle City Council
Committee on Economic Resiliency and Regional Governance
September 18, 2012

RSJI Action 1: Increase the awareness of federal and state government officials of the impacts of their actions on vulnerable communities

State Government:

- Partnered with social service providers and other groups to protect funding for human services, housing, education, and public health. Many of these cuts would have a disproportionate impact on vulnerable communities
- Worked in coalition to support several important state legislative efforts, including:
 - **Human trafficking** reforms to prevent the sexual exploitation of minors and other vulnerable populations
 - **Marriage equality** legislation
 - Transit funding
 - **DWLS3** legislation reforming Washington's approach to certain traffic infractions, so that failure to pay non-moving violations no longer results in a suspended license
 - Funding for **gang diversion programs**

RSJI Action 1 (continued): Increase the awareness of federal and state government officials of the impacts of their actions on vulnerable communities

Federal Government:

- Engaged federal officials to educate them on the negative impacts of a closure of the Chinatown/International District post office and to seek another location within the community
- Working in coalition with several community groups to fight the consolidation of the Social Security offices downtown and to mitigate the impacts of the consolidation
- Fighting possible budget sequestration and its impacts on Seattle residents
- Fighting the significant cuts to SNAP included in the proposed Farm Bill
- Supported continuing the Violence Against Women Act

RSJI Action 2: Increase city outreach and communication to Tribal governments and organizations

Recruitment and Hiring Process:

- Hired Tribal Relations Liaison (Nicole Willis)

Build racial equality into departmental policies:

- Tribal Relations Liaison involved in decision-making process regarding city policies and procedures to determine the impact on Native American and Alaska Native populations

Partner with others to achieve racial equality in the community:

- Tribal Relations Liaison to work with other city departments in cooperation and negotiations with Tribal governments (City Light, SPU, SDOT, etc)
- Partnering with the community to conduct needs assessment of urban Indian population within the City

RSJI Action 3: Fostering education about our diverse community through the Seattle Sister Cities program and international delegations

The Seattle Sister Cities program opens doors to establishing meaningful and lasting global friendships, partnerships, and connections. Sister Cities programs raise awareness of global issues, promote greater participation in international dialogue and exchange and, by doing so, build and strengthen bridges of mutual understanding and respect.

People-to-people relationships not only enhance our lives, but represent our best hope for peace and prosperity in the future.

RSJI Action 4: City employees have the skills to eliminate institutional racism and partner with the community to address structural racism

Employee Training:

- OIR employees have attended a minimum of 8 hours of RSJI training and continue to enhance their RSJI training backgrounds

Questions?

City of Seattle's
Office of Intergovernmental Relations