

## D R A F T

### Encinitas City Council Subcommittee on Becoming a Welcoming Community Summary of 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting, held January 21, 2016

The City Council subcommittee on Becoming a Welcoming Community held its second public meeting on January 21, 2016. The focus of the meeting was to consider how the City of Encinitas can support and add value to the work of all the organizations offering programs and services in support of immigrants and refugees who briefly described their efforts at the first meeting. Some key points:

- There are many organizations providing programs and services, and several umbrella coordinating bodies (e.g., Newcomers Collaborative, Immigrant Forum, Nationalization Coalition, Refugee Committee.)
- Encinitas has untapped human resources, such as Peace Corps alumni, who might be interested and useful in supporting integration of immigrants into our community
- The Encinitas Library, which offers quite a few programs and services, is limited in what it can do by both personnel and space. Just keeping up organizations and programs in order to provide referrals is very time consuming. Support for additional staff could increase the library's efforts without short-changing other equally important programs and services offered to other community sectors, such as children and seniors.
- Immigrant and refugee communities are highly diverse, some groups are highly educated but may not have English fluency, while others are "pre-literate" even in their own native language. Thus, outreach and services need to use a variety of strategies and technologies to be effective.
- There was recognition that symbolic acts matter, in addition to substantive programs and services. A proclamation or the presence of an elected official at an event, information in multiple languages, or a symbol in the window of a business can all contribute to making people feel welcome.

After some discussion, the following potential next steps were identified. The Subcommittee will work with relevant partners to evaluate further and then prepare a report to the full City Council with recommendations.

1. Work with the 211 service and the Leichtag Foundation to develop an inventory of existing organizations, programs, and services that are located in Encinitas and/or are available to residents of Encinitas. From that inventory, develop a template to invite those organizations to identify what, if anything, would be needed to expand or enhance their programs/services for Encinitas residents.
2. Working with the Leichtag Foundation and the library, develop the framework for a volunteer registry, starting with the existing Volunteer Match program, to solicit volunteers and other potential resources (e.g, meeting space, translation services) that could enhance Encinitas's efforts to be welcoming. Identify any resource needs to make such a registry effective, and any potential sources of such needed resources.

D R A F T

3. County Supervisor Dave Roberts' representative offered to provide demographic information about the immigrant and refugee populations in Encinitas to inform program planning.
4. Develop a resolution for City Council consideration, stating our commitment to being a welcoming community, and inviting civic, business, and nonprofit organizations to do the same. If approved by the City Council, we would also share our resolution with other cities in the region and encourage them to adopt similar statements.
5. Develop materials (written, electronic) to describe our commitment, and provide links to key service providers and the 211 service, as well as a symbol that could be displayed, similar to the Live Well San Diego logo, to demonstrate commitment to being a welcoming community.
6. Join the White House Task Force on New Americans' Welcoming Communities Initiative (<https://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2015/04/15/fact-sheet-strengthening-communities-welcoming-all-residents-and-promoti>).
7. Consider sending a proposal to the County Board of Supervisors requesting them to consider a county-wide initiative, modeled after the Live Well San Diego program, to encourage cities, businesses, schools, and other organizations to identify as welcoming to immigrants and refugees and documenting the services and programs each offers.

The Subcommittee plans at least one more public meeting to review its proposed report to the Council, before presenting its recommendations to the full City Council.