



CITY OF

PORTLAND, OREGON

OFFICE OF NEIGHBORHOOD INVOLVEMENT

CHLOE EUDALY, COMMISSIONER

Suk Rhee, Bureau Director
1221 SW 4th Avenue, Room 110
Portland, Oregon 97204

Promoting a culture of civic engagement

NEWS RELEASE

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CONTACT:
Suk Rhee, suk.rhee@portlandoregon.gov

City Council to Receive Report from Portland's Welcoming/Inclusive/Sanctuary City Task Force

PORTLAND, OR – Portland's Welcoming/Inclusive/Sanctuary City Task Force will submit their recommendations and priorities to City Council on March 1, at 2:00 p.m. The limited-term group was formed by Commissioner Chloe Eudaly, The Office of Neighborhood Involvement (ONI), and the New Portlanders Policy Commission, after City Commissioners passed [Resolution 36277](#), declaring Portland a Welcoming City, Sanctuary City, and an Inclusive City for all.

The Task Force includes representatives from:

- American Civil Liberties Union of Oregon
- American Immigration Lawyers Association Oregon Chapter
- David Douglas School District
- DREAM Activists
- Multnomah County Board of Commissioners
- Multnomah County Sheriff's Office
- Multnomah County Youth Commission
- One Oregon
- Oregon Commission on Hispanic Affairs
- Oregon DREAMers
- Oregon Ready
- Parkrose School District
- Portland Immigrant Rights Coalition
- Portland Police Bureau
- Portland Public Schools
- TriMet

The group was charged with developing recommendations to protect individuals and communities targeted for deportation by U.S. Immigrations and Customs Enforcement—identifying actions that can be taken by the City of Portland, Multnomah and Washington Counties, the State of Oregon, federal agencies, and school districts serving Portland residents.

City Council will hear community testimony and is expected to vote to receive the report at the March 1 session. The Task Force report is attached to this release.

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REPORT TO CITY COUNCIL



WELCOMING / INCLUSIVE / SANCTUARY CITY TASK FORCE

NEW PORTLANDER POLICY COMMISSION
OFFICE OF NEIGHBORHOOD INVOLVEMENT



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WELCOMING / INCLUSIVE / SANCTUARY CITY TASK FORCE

Task Force Authority

On March 22, 2017, City Council adopted Resolution 37277 that resolved, *inter alia*, “that the City of Portland shall coordinate with school district, regional, statewide and federal leaders and convene a workgroup to coordinate efforts to support and protect the immigrant and refugee communities.” In October 2017, the Office of Neighborhood Involvement was tasked to convene a task force for this purpose.

Task Force Placement and Responsibility

In June 2016, the City Council established the New Portlander Policy Commission (NPPC) to “advise on policies and practices to integrate immigrant and refugee communities’ voices and needs into the provision of City services, City decision-making and civic engagement in Portland.” To support City Council objectives in the adoption of Resolution 37277 and establishment of the NPPC, the Task Force was adopted as a project of the NPPC. The Office of Neighborhood Involvement provided staff and material support for Task Force efforts.

The Task Force is a limited-term work group charged with developing a set of recommendations and priorities for the City of Portland to protect individuals and communities targeted for deportation by U.S. Immigrations and Customs Enforcement, and toward resolution objectives, identifying actions that can be taken by the City of Portland and by the City with Multnomah and Washington Counties, State of Oregon, Federal agencies and school districts serving Portland residents.

Task Force Members

Task Force members represented a cross-section of the critical perspectives required to fulfill Task Force objectives:

- Entities identified in the resolution language: school district, regional, statewide and federal leaders (6 representatives)
 - David Douglas, Parkrose, and Portland Public School Districts
 - Multnomah County Board of Commissioners and Trimet
 - Oregon Commission on Hispanic Affairs
 - *Invited but unable to participate: United States Attorney’s Office, District of Oregon*
- Community members directly impacted by deportation activities and representing immigrant and refugee communities (9 representatives)
 - DREAMers (Development, Relief, and Education for Alien Minors Act) as represented by DREAM Activists, Oregon DREAMers and Multnomah County Youth Commission

- New Portlanders Policy Commission
 - Latinx, Pacific Islander and Muslim communities
- Coalitions actively convening a wide range of community, faith, service and advocacy organizations on immigrant and refugee issues:
 - One Oregon, Oregon Ready and Portland Immigrant Rights Coalition
- Civil rights and federal immigration law organizations to provide statutory and regulatory frameworks (2 representatives)
 - American Civil Liberties Union of Oregon
 - American Immigration Lawyers Association Oregon Chapter
- Public safety and law enforcement (2 representatives)
 - Portland Police Bureau and Multnomah County Sheriff's Office
 - *Invited but unable to participate: Washington County Sheriff's Office*

The list of individual Task Force members is provided on page 7 of this report.

Task Force Process

Invitations to join the Task Force were extended in November 2017. ONI staff began coalition representative and individual interviews immediately following acceptance of invitations.

The Task Force held four, three-hour public meetings between January 9 and February 13, 2018. On February 13, 2018, the following report and recommendations were adopted by a majority vote of Task Force members and is hereby respectfully submitted to Portland City Council for consideration and implementation.

**WELCOMING / INCLUSIVE / SANCTUARY CITY TASK FORCE
REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS TO PORTLAND CITY COUNCIL
MARCH 1, 2018**

Whereas Portland’s immigrant and refugee communities are and have been under siege, particularly since the current administration assumed power in 2017 and have since passed racist, inhumane, and discriminatory policies and executive orders targeting these communities.

Whereas there is no guaranteed right to provided legal representation for immigrants undergoing deportation proceedings and immigrants who appear in such proceedings without legal representation are overwhelmingly subject to extended detention and deportation without equal protection, due process, and access to justice. The City of Portland (the “City”) should lead coordinated efforts with community and government partners.

Whereas immigration sweeps, detentions, and deportation cause great insecurity, fear, and trauma for the targeted communities, including United States citizen children and other family members, which in turn detrimentally impact entire communities at large.

Whereas the City has a vested interest in protecting its communities and providing its people the opportunity to flourish and thrive in schools, residences, places of employment, places of worship, court houses, community centers and public spaces.

Now therefore, the Task Force, representing school districts, law enforcement, community organizations and coalitions, city and county agencies, nonprofit legal organizations, and with community feedback, present the following recommendations, which are intended to provide a broad framework for supporting and protecting the City's immigrant and refugee communities:

1. UNIVERSAL REPRESENTATION / LEGAL DEFENSE GRANT FUND

The Task Force agrees that the highest priority is the availability of a Universal Representation or Legal Defense Grant Fund to provide to community-based organizations (CBOs) for legal representation to all immigrants who are detained by the several arms of the Department of Homeland Security or put into deportation proceedings.

Accordingly, the Task Force recommends the following:

- That the City immediately establishes and maintains a Universal Representation/Legal Defense Grant Fund that the City initially seeds.
- The amount of funding should be responsive to community needs and be sufficient to staff a deportation defense team. Decisions regarding funding should be reflective of national best practices (e.g., other West Coast models, such as Seattle and Los Angeles). At a minimum, funding should support five attorneys and three paralegals to begin building the capacity for providing universal defense to all immigrants and refugees who are detained or put into deportation proceedings.
- That the City works and coordinates with County, State, and Federal agencies and offices, as well as private foundations and organizations to grow and sustain the fund.
- That the City ensures that the fund is equally accessible to all immigrants in need and subject to anti-discrimination policies.
- That the City prioritizes vulnerable populations, including but not limited to impacted communities, such as unaccompanied youth, the medically fragile, the economically vulnerable, pregnant, postpartum, victims of crime, nursing mothers, the LGBTQ (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgendered, questioning/queer) community, and children in foster care.

2. INDEPENDENT OFFICE OF IMMIGRANT SUPPORT

The Task Force agrees that an independent Office of Immigrant Support (the “Office”) is instrumental in administering the Universal Representation/Legal Defense Grant Fund, as well as coordinating efforts and resources to protect and support the City’s immigrant and refugee communities.

The Task Force acknowledges that creating the Office will take time and therefore, requests that the City dedicate existing staff and resources to temporarily house the functions for the Office as described below.

The Office should have the following human capital resources:

- (1) director/attorney
- (5) community liaisons
- (1) volunteer coordinator
- (2) resource development specialists

- (1) policy lead
- (1) communications lead
- (1) law enforcement liaison
- (5) additional community liaison partners

The Office should include the following programs and policies in its purview and administration:

- Diverse Know Your Rights education to inform immigrants, as well as the public at large of the immigration process, rights, and protections.
- Develop and implement a city-wide safety plan for all immigrant and refugee families in coordination with CBOs, non-profit organizations, community liaisons, government partners, legal communities and Specialty Bars focusing on education, advancement and protection of our vulnerable populations.
- Develop and implement a trauma-informed process to notify and ensure care for children of parents in custody.
- Adopt a cross-jurisdictional agreement for agencies and organizations to work together to protect immigrant and refugee residents from inhumane deportation practices and coordinate efforts to implement effective responses.
- Coordinate with community groups, nonprofits, places of worship, educational institutions, neighborhood associations, law enforcement, health care centers, public agencies, foreign consulates, and other entities to analyze, expand, and implement existing programs on a City-wide scale.
- Establish and implement, with input from the community, a best-practices curriculum in interacting with the Federal Department of Justice.

Accordingly, the Task Force recommends the following:

- That the City immediately establishes an independent Office of Immigrant Support that the City seeds with an initial investment.
- That the City works and coordinates with County, State, and Federal agencies and offices, as well as private foundations and organizations to grow and support the Office.

3. ELECTED OFFICIALS' LIAISON BETWEEN FEDERAL AGENCIES AND COMMUNITY MEMBERS

The Task Force agrees that political and social support from City officials is crucial to the success of any programs enacted to protect and support immigrant and refugee communities.

Accordingly, the Task Force recommends the following:

- That elected City officials act as a liaison between federal agencies and community members with grievances all the time, not just when it makes headline news.
- That the City works and coordinates with County, State, and Federal agencies and offices, as well as nonprofits and community organizations to support and protect immigrant and refugee communities.

4. CITY TO ADOPT AND INTERNALIZE TASK FORCE RECOMMENDATIONS INTO CITY POLICIES

Accordingly, the Task Force further recommends the following:

- That the City adopts and internalizes these Task Force recommendations into City policies.
- That the City appoints and empowers an independent City/Public Ombudsman for redress and accountability in implementing the Task Force recommendations.
- That the City authorize the current Task Force to develop the membership criteria for a new Task Force that would oversee the implementation of the recommendations in this report.

WELCOMING / INCLUSIVE / SANCTUARY CITY TASK FORCE MEMBERS

Organizational affiliations are listed for identification purposes only:

Mary Lu Baetkey (Parkrose School Board)
Ana del Rocio (David Douglas School District)
Mat dos Santos (American Civil Liberties Union of Oregon) / Kelly Simon served as a proxy
Julie Esparza-Brown (Portland Public Schools Board) / Jeanine Fukuda served as a proxy
Koloni Fusitu'a (New Portlanders Policy Commission)
John Gardner (Trimet)
Maria Garcia (New Portlanders Policy Commission)
Zulma Garcia Ceniseros (Multnomah County Youth Commission)
Jason Gates (Multnomah County Sheriff's Office)
Karen Gray (Parkrose School District)
Roberto Gutierrez (One Oregon & Oregon Ready) / Elena Calacob served as a proxy
Mike Krantz (Portland Police Bureau)
Kimberly Melton (Multnomah County Board of Commissioner Chair, staff) / Adam Renon served as a proxy
Alberto Moreno (Oregon Commission on Hispanic Affairs)
Yesenia Ramos Pacheco (Multnomah County Youth Commission)
Leonardo Reyes (Oregon DREAMers/DACA Coalition)
Chanpone Sinlapasai (American Immigration Lawyers Association Oregon Chapter)
Harry Smith (Multnomah County Sheriff's Office)
Ricardo Varela (Oregon DREAM Activists)
Eric Vega (Portland Immigrant Rights Coalition)
Wajdi Said (New Portlanders Policy Commission) / Rania Ayoub served as a proxy

The following organizations were invited to send one representative to the Task Force:

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| • American Civil Liberties Union of Oregon | • Multnomah County Sheriff's Office | • Portland Immigrant Rights Coalition |
| • American Immigration Lawyers Association Oregon Chapter | • Multnomah County Youth Commission | • Portland Police Bureau |
| • David Douglas School District | • One Oregon | • Portland Public Schools |
| • DREAM Activists | • Oregon Commission on Hispanic Affairs | • Trimet |
| • Multnomah County Board of Commissioners | • Oregon DREAMers | |
| | • Oregon Ready | <i>Invited/unable to participate:</i> |
| | • Parkrose School District | • United States Attorney's Office, District of Oregon |
| | | • Washington County Sheriff's Office |