

CITY OF ANAHEIM
MAYOR'S TASK FORCE – WELCOMING ANAHEIM INITIATIVE

MINUTES

May 26, 2017

Agenda Posting: A complete copy of the Anaheim Sister City Commission Agenda was posted on Tuesday, May 23, 2017 at 8:30 a.m. at Anaheim City Hall.

I. **CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Tait called the meeting of the Mayor's Task Force on Welcoming Anaheim to order at 8:30 a.m. on Friday, May 26, 2017 at the Gordon Hoyt Conference Room, Anaheim West Tower, 201 S. Anaheim Blvd., 2nd Floor, Anaheim, California.

INTRODUCTIONS

Mayor Tait began the meeting by asking members around the table to introduce themselves. The following Task Force members were present:

- 1) Mayor Tom Tait
- 2) Councilmember Steve Faessel
- 3) Councilmember Jose Moreno
- 4) Glen Peterson, World Relief
- 5) Valentina Purtell, Provost, School of Continuing Education, North OC Community College District
- 6) Greg Walgenbach, Diocese of Orange
- 7) Julio Perez, OC Labor Federation
- 8) Allison Edwards, OC Human Relations Commission
- 9) Nathan Zug, Chairman, Anaheim Religious Coordinating Council & Minister, Magnolia Baptist Church
- 10) Mike Matsuda, Superintendent, Anaheim Union High School District

City staff included Brent Dennis, Community Services Director, Captain Jarret Young, Anaheim Police Department, Greg Garcia, Deputy City Manager, Linda Andal, City Clerk's Office, Dukku Lee, Anaheim Public Utilities and Mishal Montgomery, Mayor's Chief of Staff.

II. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mayor Tait opened the floor to public comments. There were no public comments. Mayor Tait indicated that he would allow public comments throughout the meeting as appropriate if a member of the public wished to speak or had a question.

III. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

The minutes were approved unanimously without objection. Motion for approval by Council Member Moreno and seconded by Council Member Faessel.

IV. GUEST PRESENTATION – JENNIFER CHACON, PROFESSOR OF LAW UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, IRVINE, SCHOOL OF LAW

Mayor Tait introduced our guest speaker Jennifer Chacon with the University of California Irvine School of Law. Professor Chacón does research in the fields of immigration law, constitutional law and criminal law and procedure. As a teacher of both criminal procedure and immigration law and policy, she is particularly interested in questions arising at the intersection of these fields. Her presentation covered the challenges of welcoming immigrants given the current legal structure.

After her presentation, Professor Chacon answered questions from the task force members.

V. CONSIDERATION AND ACTION ON RECOMMENDATIONS FOR NEW STRATEGIES & PROGRAMS

Mayor Tait indicated that Greg Garcia has compiled a list of recommendations that the task force can consider. Greg mentioned that over the past couple of meetings, the Mayor has asked to hear from city departments on what we can do in this area to become a more welcoming community. The list includes many items that staff may already do as part of our department objectives, but these items can be enhanced as a result of this exercise. Greg also clarified that these are staff initiated ideas and recommendations and the list does not include some policy changes that have been discussed by the task force that probably require further vetting and approval by the City Council prior to implementation. The following was the draft list of ideas shared by staff:

- Create a new resident “Welcome Kit” that provides basic introductory information about Anaheim and ways in which residents can find resources and sign up for critical city services;

- Work with community partners and stakeholders on providing citizenship & resource fairs in city facilities throughout the year;
- Provide ESL naturalization courses in coordination with the North Orange County School of Continuing Education (publicized in the Anaheim Community Services Department magazine and the Anaheim magazine);
- Work in conjunction with stakeholder groups and other nonprofits on the development of a survey in order to assess the needs of new residents and to gain feedback on ways in which the City of Anaheim can better serve our new residents;
- Join other community stakeholders in creating a citywide multicultural event celebrating the city's diversity;
- Creation of a Neighborhood Ambassadors Program to develop community leadership through the existing Neighborhood Academy. Neighborhood Ambassadors could be utilized to welcome new residents into our neighborhoods as well as invite new residents to participate in the Neighborhood Academy;
- Update the "My Anaheim" app and the "Anaheim Alert" notification system to be available in multiple languages;
- Creation of a new online city resource portal that can be tailored towards new residents;
- Develop videos that run on the city's TV channel explaining key information about our programs and services in multiple languages;
- Create a new page on the city's website dedicated to detailing Anaheim's demographic information;
- Showcase films/performances that are culturally relevant at the Pearson Park Amphitheater Nights;
- Provide professional development courses to city employees on cultural competency and opportunities for city employees to learn another language;

- Create a new program within the Clerk's Office introducing new residents to their city government and the democratic process to ensure they have access to all parts of government;
- Develop materials (written, electronic) to describe our commitment to new residents and provide links to key service providers and the 211 service;
- Consider sending a proposal to the County Board of Supervisors requesting them to consider a county-wide initiative, modeled after the Welcoming America initiative;
- Partner with the school districts to supplement their efforts on providing a welcoming environment to new residents;
- Provide workshops on starting a business in Anaheim in coordination with local business groups;
- Develop a task force within the police department/code enforcement that investigates fraudulent services and scams targeting immigrant/refugee communities;
- Encourage local business groups and schools to develop and tailor courses around entrepreneurship and small businesses;
- Create pathways for immigrants/refugees to take courses in fields that fall under the Workforce Development department;
- Collect Data on Small Businesses that are owned/led by immigrants/refugees;
- Partner with business groups to provide mentorships to “young” entrepreneurs;

Greg went through the list briefly and then asked the other department heads to go through any other thoughts they may have.

Dukku Lee displayed a mock-up of the APU welcome kit that they are proposing that would welcome new residents to the community and provide them with basic information about their city government.

Council Member Faessel liked the draft welcome kit and suggested that it be in multiple languages and maybe offer some direction on how to get legal advice. He also said he appreciated the laundry list presented by staff and all the ideas that were put forward.

Allison Edwards mentioned that the welcome kit could possibly include a welcome letter from the Police Chief. Mike Matsuda mentioned that it definitely needs to include a kindness component since that is unique and important. Mike also suggested that we include a bullet on our draft list about the Love Anaheim initiative and the Servathon program since those are programs that we are already doing.

Mayor Tait likes the idea of a dynamic video highlighting the idea that all are welcome in the city of Anaheim. Maybe it could include a message from the police chief letting people know that they can trust our police department on immigration issues. Brent Dennis with Community Services mentioned that his staff are interested in looking into a new multicultural event in the city. Also, engaging residents and including them in all of our services like getting a library card or signing up for classes is an important way of building trust in the community.

Valentina Purtell said that her district can definitely contribute to the education of the immigrant population in Anaheim. She suggested that we amend the third bullet to include providing ESL and citizenship preparation courses. The district already has many locations throughout Anaheim to hold these courses. Also, the district could help in the area of workforce development classes. She serves on the Workforce Development Board and we can look into collocating services and classes.

Allison Edwards said that some of the residents that she has dealt with have had a great experience using the Anaheim App. Maybe the app is a good place to place the new video that we discussed earlier. Greg Walgenbach commented that maybe the City's website or app can include a page regarding knowing your rights. It would be great if the City can find a way to incorporate information about immigrant rights. Mayor Tait agreed and said that it would be ideal if we can consolidate all of the information about rights and put that into a one-page document and figure out how to best share that with the appropriate population.

Julio Perez said that Santa Ana school district did a good job of welcoming people in multiple languages and we can take a look at that for some ideas. He also

would still like to have a policy discussion about how to deal with the privacy issue and looks forward to diving into that a little more when the group gets to that discussion. He also pointed out that various cities have provided legal support to those who need legal representation. Those funds are set up with a number of partners and foundations and we could look into alternate ways to help set up legal funds utilizing city resources such as city facilities.

Council Member Faessel mentioned that many in our community do not have access to the internet and to computers. We shouldn't assume that we are going to reach the entire community with some of our strategies that utilize the web. Council Member Moreno said he agrees and that is why it is so important for the police department and others to be out there talking to the community and assuring them about what our position is on immigration issues. Council Member Moreno also mentioned that he is concerned about people not seeking certain services and health services being one of those. John Bennet with St. Joseph agreed that it is a problem and the immigrant population is the most vulnerable and that there is a fear of reaching out for services. They would like to look at strategies to proactively give health services to those that need them before health issue get worse. Greg Walgenbach said that even immigrants who do qualify for services are now often afraid to accept services. For instance there has been a 40% reduction in people redeeming food stamps.

Council Member Moreno proposed that we use the phrase that Anaheim is a welcoming city of kindness as we communicate and promote our efforts.

Glen Peterson commended the city for assisting with the upcoming citizenship fair and asked for the city to continue to get involved with the local nonprofits as they meet and plan for new programs. Greg Garcia asked how the city can get involved and have a seat at the table and agreed to work with Glen on connecting city resources with the local nonprofits.

A member of the public spoke about creating a multicultural event in the city celebrating our diversity and utilizing our senior community to have a role in assisting new residents in our community.

VI. TASK FORCE WORK, GOALS & OBJECTIVES AND MEETING SCHEDULE

Mayor Tait commented that he would like to conclude this task force at the next meeting. At that time the group can discuss some policy recommendations that

they could forward to the City Council. One of the ideas that he would like the group to consider is officially becoming a Welcoming City.

The mayor said that this is not the final word on this issue but rather it is meant to be a launching point for more ideas moving forward. The mayor would like to get some media coverage about this once the group finalizes its recommendations since that would go a long way in letting people know that Anaheim is taking a big step in this area. Just by reading about this effort people may feel more welcome.

Council Member Moreno suggested that we create a list of recommendations for City Council that would allow staff to undertake the suggested list that was presented. He also likes the idea of media coverage to get the message out that we are a welcoming city of kindness, which will impact how people in our community view Anaheim in a national context.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Mayor Tait adjourned the meeting at 10:25 a.m.